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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MARGATE, RAMSGATE, BROADSTAIRS AND DISTRICT



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JAILED FOR USING THE WRONG WORD

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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It's audition time for a part in The Granville's Dick Whittington production. Search 'panto'

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ISSN 1753-097-0



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Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON



CENTRE OF THE COMMUNITY

Newington Children's Centre opened last week, heralding a new beginning for families in the community.

The centre will provide a range of services for children and parents, acting as a hub for services and information in Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate.

MP Dr Steve Ladyman was present for the official opening and CBBC entertainer Trevor Neale, of comedy duo Trevor and Simon, also popped in to say hello.

The centre's marketing and events co-ordinator Mel Kovak said: "The people who came along were very receptive to what we are doing."

"It was a great day, it wasn't just for parents and kids, but was also for those who have set up the centre and who are involved."

She added: "I'd like to thank everyone involved for making it such a great day, from the members of the public who came along to those from the agencies who took part."

Two hundred balloons were also released and services were showcased by services who had taken up stalls for the opening.

EXCLUSIVE

BY TOM BETTS

A RAMSGATE businessman who chose to be jailed rather than compromise his principles says he doesn't regret a thing.

Tim Garbutt, founder and managing director of advertising firm Sincerity Agency, has just been released from six weeks in jail, having been given a six-month sentence for contempt of court.

Mr Garbutt, whose wife owns Ramsgate's acclaimed Surin Restaurant, had been involved in a disagreement over the name of his company, which he had initially called Integrity.

"There's a company in Kent called Integrity Design Management who have registered the word 'integrity'," said Mr Garbutt. "They objected to me using it, which is crazy as it's a word in the English language – how can anyone register it?"

Mr Garbutt says he first heard from Integrity Design Management lawyers in spring 2007, objecting to him using the name.

Although he said the name had been registered incorrectly, Mr Garbutt says he still tried to appease the company, changing the name of his own operation from Integrity to Integrity Agency.

However, Integrity Design Management pressed ahead with proceedings anyway.

"An Englishman gets riled at that point, so I decided to fight it," said Mr Garbutt.

The case – in which Mr Garbutt was accused of deliberately or maliciously copying, or "passing off", a trademark – went straight to the High Court in London, where he made his first appearance in July 2007.

Mr Garbutt said: "I thought it was ridiculous that it was taken to the High Court. I believe in

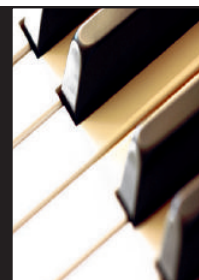
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see **pages 20 and 21** for details



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2 Tantalise your taste buds with the Plant To Plate food festival. See the leisure channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Designer Wayne Hemmingsway at last week's Construction Expo. See the leisure channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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EYES: The head-mounted cameras have been launched to help fight crime on Margate seafront

Security staff use their heads

BY TOM BETTS

HEAD-mounted cameras are the latest ploy being used to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on the isle.

They will be used on Margate seafront as police look to tackle problems outside pubs and clubs.

The cameras will take footage which is timed, dated and admissible as evidence in court.

Initially, door staff of five licensed premises will wear the sets, but if trials are deemed to be a success then the police may also use them.

Their use will be added to the portable metal archways and Bluetooth technology that has already been in operation over the summer.

Organisers say the campaign is having an impact, with violent incidents at night along Marine Terrace down from 69 between June and August 2007 to 35 between June and August 2008.

At a cost of some £800 each, ten cameras have been ordered to help

the fight against crime and anti-social behavior.

The initiative is being driven by the Thanet Community Safety Partnership, as well as Kent Police, Thanet council, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the NHS and Kent County Council.

Community safety officer Tiffany Hall said: "These cameras are clearly visible and therefore act as both a deterrent to anyone who might be considering causing trouble and as reassurance for people."

"We want to get the message across that anti-social behaviour in Marine Terrace won't be tolerated."

"It's one of the Community Safety Partnership's priorities to tackle the problem of crime in the night-time economy and this is just one of the many innovative ways we're looking at achieving that."

Where they have been used elsewhere in the country, there have been reductions in crime.

Within six months of trialling the cameras in Plymouth, there was an eight per cent reduction in all violent crime and an increase in the number of arrests for violent incidents.

PC Heath is latest bobby on the beat

CLIFTONVILLE West has a new man on the beat.

PC Andy Heath, pictured, joins PC Alex Taylor and PCSOs Tom Askew and Stuart Cogger in supporting and helping the community in the ward.

He said: "I joined Kent Police three years ago as a patrol officer in Thanet and when this opportunity came up I wanted the role as I want to be able to concentrate on pro-

active work and projects that will make a difference to people in that area. There are a number of challenges in this part of Thanet, but there are already a lot of people working hard here and I am looking forward to being a part of the team."

A third PC is also being recruited for the area.

To contact PC Heath with concerns in your community, you can phone 07870 252943.



'I'm ready when you are, lads'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

justice and the law and I don't think you should clutter up the High Court with petty cases like this."

Although the first appearance involved little more than presentation of papers, Mr Garbutt was already looking at costs of some £4,000. At his next hearing, in October, these had risen to £12,000, and by December to £25,000.

On each occasion, Mr Garbutt refused to pay, arguing that the growing figure resulted from lawyers simply re-presenting the same papers.

Mr Garbutt says he made further appearances in March and July (twice), by which time he had been accused of contempt of court.

Told that if he apologised for not following court orders, the contempt of court charge would be dropped, Mr Garbutt finally agreed to do so, but he would not accept that he was guilty of the initial charge of passing off.

He also refused to drop his appeal against the costs awards. And on July 30, Mr Garbutt was convicted of contempt of court.

"I just turned to the guards and said 'Ready when you are, lads'," said Mr Garbutt. After six weeks inside, he was released, courtesy of one of the world's most controversial lawyers.

Appalled

Mr Garbutt had defended himself in court, but when Giovanni Di Stefano heard about his imprisonment, he was so appalled that he chose to pick up the case. The lawyer has defended several high-profile criminals, most notoriously former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

Now fighting Mr Garbutt's corner, Mr Di Stefano made contact with the case judge and his client walked free within three days, on September 11.

On prison life, Mr Garbutt said: "I regret nothing. The guys I was in with were OK with me. The ones I detest are the judges and lawyers."

Mr Garbutt says an appeal is before the Bar Standards Board regarding what he claims are excess legal costs, which he reckons now might be up to £70,000-£80,000.

The board has, however, told Yourthanet that it will not be pursuing Mr Garbutt's claim.

Guy Hollingworth, a barrister at legal firm One Essex Court, which represented Integrity Design Management and who was involved with the case in its early stages, said: "As the matter has not concluded, I can't comment."




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You'll struggle to sea garden through weeds

Just months after opening, land has become overgrown

BY TOM BETTS

JUST a few months after its completion, the Sea Garden beneath Ramsgate's East Cliff is in a sorry state.

The land at the north end of the lower promenade car park is overgrown, bedraggled and almost unrecognisable from the attractive design unveiled at the end of May.

The swirly rock patterns are barely visible from the overlooking cliff, and to the untrained eye it could look just like any other piece of unkempt scrubland.

Thanet council and Southern Water provided money for the Sea Garden's creation and it was made by the Thanet Coast Project with artist Ruth Cutler, but no money is available for its maintenance.

Tony Child, of the Thanet Coast Project, admitted the project needed some TLC.

He said: "The Sea Garden is never going to be like any other. However, it does need help.

"Topsoil here is 'infill' and full of nutrients, but it is also full of a few specific weeds that are more likely to take a hold of this site.

"Thanet council's parks department has donated an old strimmer, but the site will veer



Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

UNKEPT: Funding was provided to create the garden, but not to maintain it and protect it from weeds and overgrowth

between the wildside and some control, with voluntary help when it comes forward.

"I don't think it was ever the designer's intention to be a pristine site."

Designer Ruth Cutler will lead an event to trim down the growth and clear litter and weeds from the garden, and volunteers are being sought to lend a hand.

Mr Child said: "Since putting this additional work task on the website, I have already had

a couple of volunteers come forward. Many hands make light work – so if you hear of any other people who would like to help, I can pass these names to the designer.

"She will be helping to maintain this site voluntarily but has been very busy running art workshops and exhibitions over the summer."

• To get involved in the Thanet Coast Project, visit www.thanetcoast.org.uk/whats_on.aspx.

Woman falls to death

A WOMAN has died after falling from the second storey of a building in Ramsgate.

Police were called to the scene of a woman sitting on a bay window in St Augustine's Road in Ramsgate at about 7pm on Monday.

Two police officers and a member of her family tried to get the 46-year-old woman to come down, but she fell.

She was taken to Margate's QEQM Hospital but died from her injuries.

The incident is not being treated as suspicious.

Donation is child's play

THE Rotary Club of Ramsgate has given a bundle of toys to the Newington Road Clinic thanks to Rotary Foundation funding.

Club president David Blackwell said: "Rotary has its own charity which mainly funds major humanitarian projects around the world.

"However, each year every Rotary Club can make a bid for about £500 to fund a small project in its area and I'm delighted our bid, to provide good quality, educational and hygienic toys in the Newington Road Clinic was successful."

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The campaign to make Ramsgate a 'town for heroes'. Search heroes

£500 fine for using phone while driving

A MOTORIST caught using his mobile phone behind the wheel has been hit with a fine.

Adam Papa-Adams was fined £500 and ordered to pay £175 costs when he was found guilty of driving while using a mobile phone.

The Palm Bay Avenue, Margate, resident had been summonsed to appear before Thanet magistrates after he was stopped by police at 12.45am on August 26, 2007, in Gladstone Road, Broadstairs.

The summons was issued when Papa-Adams, 47, declined to pay the £60 fixed penalty and accept three points on his driving licence.

He claimed he was using a hands-free device in his Vauxhall Corsa car and pleaded not guilty at court, where he chose not to be legally represented.

Insp Nick Fordom and Sgt Pete Reynolds had been on patrol in Broadstairs when they spotted Papa-Adams and pulled him over.

Insp Fordom said: "I hope the size of the fine in this case will serve as a deterrent to the drivers who still persist in using a mobile phone while they are driving.

"All evidence shows that using a phone at the wheel is distracting and therefore dangerous for the driver and other road-users."

Body of 'Japanese' man not identified after 12-year search

A MISSING persons charity is appealing for information on a man who was found dead in Margate 12 years ago.

The unidentified man was of Japanese appearance and aged between 25 and 30.

He had short black hair, was of heavy build and 5ft 8in tall.

He had been dead for about a week before his body was discovered in a hotel room on September 24, 1996.

The charity Missing People, which works with the police, coroners, hospitals and social services to resolve cases of unidentified people alive or dead, has checked its missing persons records for clues as to a possible identity.

However, as yet no conclusive match has been made.

They are now calling for anyone

who may have information to get in touch.

An artist's impression of the man has also been produced in an attempt to solve the mystery of his identity.

Teri Blythe, head of Missing People's identification department, said: "In most cases an unidentified person is also a missing person, so it is likely this man will have family and friends out there who do not know his fate.

"We therefore hope this appeal will bring some vital clues that will lead us to identify this body and put an end to someone's distress."

If you have any information, please the confidential 24-hour charity Missing People on Freephone 0500 700700, or email identification@missingpeople.org.uk.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Simon's rocket for French bandits over the cliffs

A PILOT from the isle has spoken to Yourthanet about the "hairy" moment when French aircraft tried to fly alongside Fusionman as he made his record-breaking cross-Channel trip on Friday last week.

Westgate-on-Sea councillor Simon Moores, who runs an aerial advertising firm, was flying a banner for a national newspaper welcoming Yves Rossy and his rocket to Dover when he noticed a number of French planes flying next to him.

He said: "They were trying to get alongside Fusionman. They didn't end up getting too close to him, but at one point one of the planes was only 30ft away from me. It got a bit hairy up there."

"The French planes really shouldn't have been up there, but in the end there was me, the BBC and Sky helicopters and them."

Cllr Moores contacted air traffic control to look into the matter.

LibDems give up £800 as donor is not a voter

A DONATION of £800 to the South Thanet Liberal Democrats has been stopped.

The money was given to the political group by Philip Young but was deemed to be impermissible and had to be forfeited.

Under section 54(1) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the party could not accept Mr Young's donation as he was not on the electoral register at the time and the money was returned.

On Monday, The Electoral Commission announced that the Liberal Democrats' South Thanet accounting unit had agreed to forfeit the money.

No further action will be taken.

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Richard Hill advises how to beat the credit crunch. Search 'crunch'



GIVE LOLLIE A PAT ON THE BACK

MP Roger Gale and his wife Suzy have registered a second animal as a Pets as Therapy dog.

Lollie, from the Gale family's menagerie of pets, is following in the paw-steps of the Gales' other Newfoundland, Lulu, and has just been approved and registered.

In the course of her career, Lulu, who is not yet ready to retire, has visited schools, hospitals, hospices and residential homes in addition to raising money for charity.

Now, Lollie will be playing her part to help bring comfort to those in hospital and also to raise funds for those in need.

Speaking for the family, the MP said: "We regard the work of the PAT organisation as highly valuable and we know PAT dogs and cats bring comfort and pleasure to many children and the elderly in hospitals and elsewhere."

"Suzy and I are delighted Lollie has passed her assessment with flying colours and look forward to taking her out in her official capacity in the very near future."

She has already begun to undertake general engagements and she recently appeared alongside her 'auntie' Lulu and attracted considerable attention at Herne Bay's Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital annual fete."

Funding turnaround to keep tower open

CRAMPTON Tower and Museum will remain open after a funding deal was worked out.

Thanet council and Broadstairs and St Peter's Town Council have agreed to dig deep and support the tower for the foreseeable future.

The town council will provide additional funding in the short term and will look into ways to safeguard the future of the museum over "the next few years".

Museum administrator Peter Shaw said: "This is excellent, I feel very pleased. It's time to look to the future now and look at the positives. It's been a tough time and we certainly never wanted to have to shut, but this is a lift."

The town council members voted unanimously to support the tower financially on Monday.

Cllr Bill Peppiatt, from Broadstairs and St Peter's Town Council, said: "I am delighted the town and district councils were able to work

■ BY TOM BETTS

together to keep the Crampton Tower Museum Complex open, especially as Crampton was such an important international engineer and now an integral part of Broadstairs history."

He added: "The council also applauds the work of Peter Shaw and his dedicated band of volunteers who manage and promote this important visitor and educational attraction."

Shortfall

A funding shortfall had threatened to close the tower doors for good.

Thanet council had initially refused to continue its rent subsidy, to angry reaction from those who use its many facilities for work and pleasure.

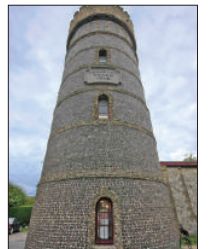
However, with the new deal announced, the future is looking bright once more.

Cllr Roger Latchford, cabinet member for

culture and economy at Thanet council, said: "Having said previously that I would do everything possible to ensure the continued survival of Crampton Tower, I'm delighted we've been able to help facilitate discussions between the town council and the museum."

"The discussions we've held have been extremely positive and will hopefully provide a firm footing for the future of Crampton Tower, which is a unique attraction for Thanet."

The flint tower is named after Thomas Crampton, the famous engineer born in Broadstairs.



SUCCESS: Crampton Tower has been given much-needed funding to stay open

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Cooking up a treat in town for war heroes

FREE meals for veterans of the armed services will be available at a Ramsgate restaurant next week.

Acclaimed Thai, Cambodian and Lao restaurant Surin will offer former servicemen the meals after its proprietors decided to give something back to those who have served.

On Tuesday, Tim Garbutt and his wife Damrong will be out to prove a point, saying veterans can eat free on Tuesdays "forever".

Mr Garbutt said: "I believe we owe our veterans so much and they don't get the respect or financial support they deserve.

"That's why we will be offering veterans from The Royal British Legion free meals every Tuesday, forever. No charge. They've already paid in full."

The meals are part of a campaign to make Ramsgate a "town for heroes" by May 2009.

■ BY TOM BETTS

The campaign is pushing for waivers on council tax and support with food bills from supermarkets, utility bills from energy companies and the like.

Legion treasurer Mary Hird said: "With the new conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, there has never been a more important time to look after our veterans.

"I hope all businesses in the area and KCC and Thanet council will support us. Your veterans have served. Now it's your turn. Please help us over the coming weeks and months to make Ramsgate a town for heroes"

And it will not be just any old standard fare that the veterans will be able to feast on without having to cough up a penny.

Tim's Thai wife Damrong, owner and head

chef at the Harbour Street eatery, has her fingers crossed for a Michelin Star next year and has been included in the 2009 Good Food Guide.

Positive reviews have come from Time Out magazine, The Guardian and The Observer newspapers, among others.

Mel Morris, secretary at The Royal British Legion in Ramsgate, said: "It's a great idea and I hope many of our members will be taking up the kind offer of some free food and a good night out. Many are on a low income, so going out is not something they can all do."

She added: "They seem to think it's a good idea and, although it might take a while to get off the ground, the idea of a free meal is up everyone's street."

The veterans' eating offer begins at Surin, Harbour Street, Ramsgate, every Tuesday from 7pm. To book a place, phone the legion on 01843 593114 to claim a voucher and book a seat.

Talk to your PCSO

SALMESTONE ward PCSO Peter Frampton wants the thoughts of residents on the idea of sprucing up the area around Tivoli Park and Road in Margate.

The newly-created PACT panel (Partners and Communities Together) has identified graffiti and poor lighting as two of its main concerns and is now looking at solutions.

Phone 07772 226185, or email peter.frampton@kent.pnn.police.uk.

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Remind yourself how great the isle can be in the summer. Search 'folk'



TIM'S OUT TO HELP

It's been a busy time for Ramsgate's Tim Garbutt. Just released from a six-week stint behind bars over a legal wrangle with a design firm (see front page), he has not let his spell inside let it dampen his spirits and is taking up a new challenge.

The restaurateur has started a campaign to make the town a haven for former members of the armed forces who have served their country - and the first stage of his plan starts on Tuesday.

Beavers are back in the wild

A FAMILY of beavers has been released into the wild on the edge of the isle.

The mammals, which were once native to this country, will be housed in an artificial lodge at Ham Fen nature reserve near Sandwich before they are let go.

The European beavers were introduced into a temporary lodge on Monday by Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust, where they were born earlier this year. It is hoped their reintroduction will help the species regain a foothold in the area.

Ray Lewis from the Kent Wildlife Trust said: "They are largely nocturnal, so it will

be hard to see too much of them, but we hope they will flourish here. Long-term we hope they will breed, but it will be difficult to monitor that. It's a terrific project."

The two parent beavers were given to the trust as a gift from the German government. They have not been present in Britain since they were hunted to extinction in the 17th century and have been wiped out across much of continental Europe.

The Ham Fen Beaver Project is a conservation programme that aims to protect and restore the last remaining fenland habitat in south-east England.

THANET Leisureforce *Appearing at the Winter Gardens* www.leisureforce.co.uk

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WHAT'S ON AT THE WINTER GARDENS

<p>OCTOBER 2008 Friday 3rd & 4th at 2.30pm & 7.30pm Girling Productions presents The All Laughter Show</p> <p>Sunday 5th at 5pm Performance, Comedy & Dance 2008</p> <p>Saturday 12th at 7.30pm The Orchestra ELO Part II</p> <p>Friday 17th at 8pm Jimmy Carr Joke Technician</p> <p>Sunday 26th at 7.30pm The Big Ballet</p> <p>Friday 31st at 7.30pm The Stylitics.</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2008 Saturday 1st at 8pm The Rendezvous 50th Birthday Celebration featuring The Complete Beatles and Mick Tee</p> <p>Friday 7th at 7.30pm Tony Stockwell</p> <p>Saturday 8th at 7.30pm Apocalypse In The Asylum from The Circus Of Horrors</p> <p>Saturday 15th at 5pm Basil Brush's High Skool Mania</p> <p>Saturday 22nd at 7.30pm BRADA & Thanet Leisureforce Ltd presents Search for a Star National Talent Finals</p> <p>Saturday 29th at 7.30pm Flying Music presents The Rat Pack at Christmas</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2008 Wednesday 3rd to Sunday 7th Babes in the Wood</p> <p>14th at 3pm Salvation Army Carol Concert</p> <p>Friday 19th at 7.30pm From The Jam</p> <p>Saturday 20th & Monday 22nd at 7.30pm Christmas Party Nights</p> <p>Sat 27th & Sun 28th at 2.30pm & 7.30pm Christmas Crackers Show</p> <p>Wednesday 31st at 8pm New Years Eve Dance</p>
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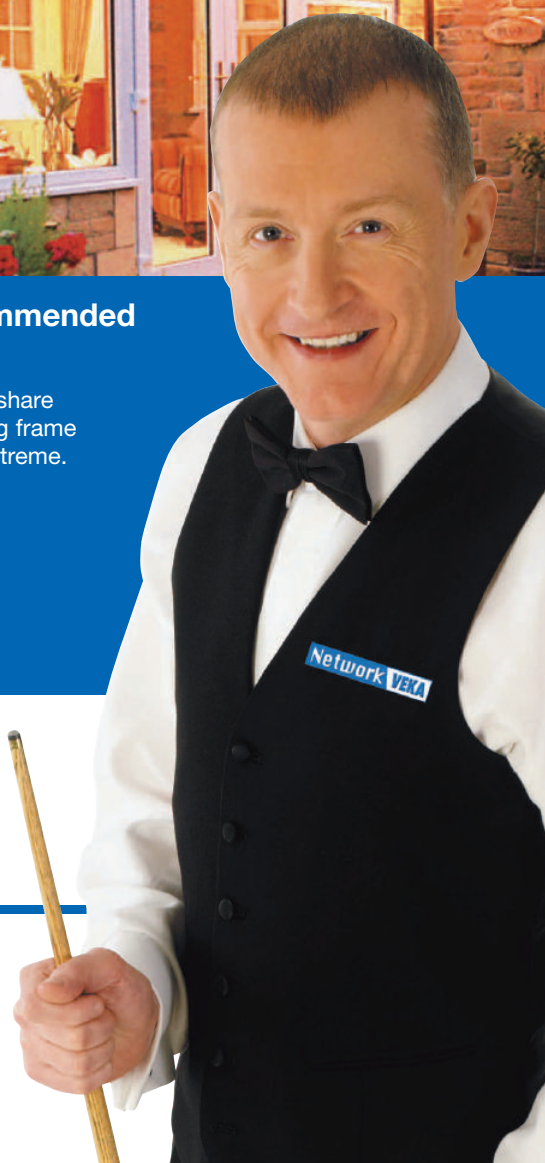


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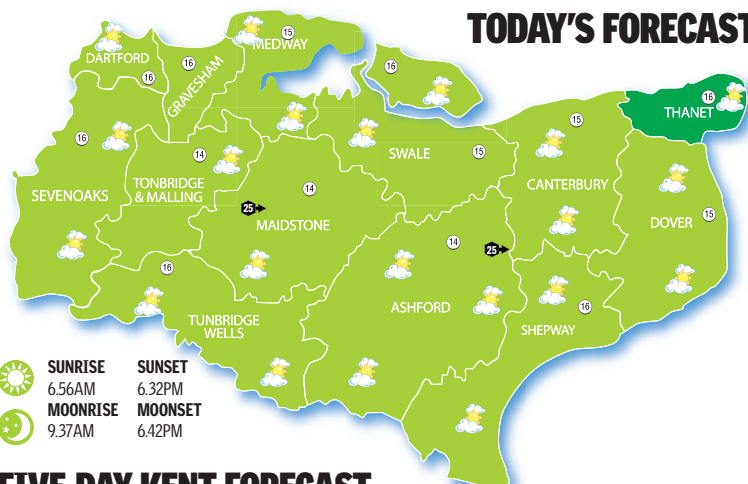
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SUNRISE 6.56AM
MOONRISE 9.37AM
SUNSET 6.32PM
MOONSET 6.42PM

TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:16pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:48pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	1:30pm	6.7m
	Sunday	1:59pm	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:34pm	7.8m
	Sunday	2:06pm	7.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:00pm	5.1m
	Sunday	2:29pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:06pm	5.8m
	Sunday	3:38pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:16pm	5.3m
	Sunday	3:47pm	5.2m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	15°C	16°C	13°C	11°C	13°C	Gravesend	15°C	17°C	14°C	14°C	16°C
Canterbury	14°C	15°C	13°C	12°C	14°C	Maidstone	14°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	15°C
Chatham	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C	Ramsgate	14°C	15°C	13°C	12°C	14°C
Dartford	15°C	17°C	14°C	14°C	16°C	Rochester	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C
Dover	14°C	15°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Sevenoaks	13°C	15°C	13°C	12°C	13°C
Faversham	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C	Sittingbourne	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C
Folkestone	14°C	15°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Tonbridge	14°C	15°C	14°C	12°C	14°C
Gillingham	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C	Tun Wells	14°C	15°C	14°C	12°C	14°C



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	21°C
Athens	21°C	New York	22°C
Barcelona	24°C	Paris	17°C
Beijing	18°C	Rome	20°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	16°C
Gibraltar	20°C	Vancouver	15°C
Hong Kong	30°C	Warsaw	15°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	12°C

Isle's a good sport for leisure access

A NEW project to help support Kent's sporting talent is being piloted on the Isle.

Thanet council will co-ordinate the Kent Free Access for County and Regional Sportspeople scheme (FACS).

The aim is to provide sportsmen and women with free access to a number of the county's leisure and sports facilities for personal training and development at designated off-peak times. Thanet is the first of two areas in Kent to have signed up to pilot the FACS scheme.

Similar projects have run for a number of years in Ashford and Shepway, but the long-term aim is to get countywide coverage of the FACS scheme providing support to all county and regional-level sports performers in Kent.

The FACS scheme in Thanet will be administered and delivered by the district council, with the support of the Kent Sports Development Unit.

Cllr Jo Gideon, cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods, health and communities, said: "It is vital we create the right pathways for our local sports stars to progress and FACS will offer them the incentive to go that extra mile. With the support of Thanet Leisureforce and the local sports clubs, I am confident we can help them on their journey to the top."

Three Thanet Leisureforce facilities in the district - Hartsdown Leisure Centre, Ramsgate Sports Centre and Ramsgate Swimming Pool - have signed up to the scheme so that talented sportsmen and women can use them to train free of charge.

The scheme is open to people of all ages, including those with disabilities, as long as they compete in sports at county or regional level and live within the Thanet district council boundary.

To find out more, or to get an application form, phone sports development officer Martyn Cassell on 01843 577367.

Alternatively, collect one from one of the above-named centres.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

TONY FLAIG



Q Why do you feel the need to keep a blog?

A It's not a need, more of a bad habit I slid into. I was introduced to blogging indirectly at the public meeting called by Kent County Council to explain, excuse and then sidestep the £8 million spent on the original Turner Contemporary Gallery. Simon Moores – now a councillor – mentioned his weblog Thanet Life, which I looked at the following day. I thought I could do that, but maybe in a different way. I found it was easy to bash out a quick off-the-cuff remark or long, tedious opinion which the reading public can take or leave. For anyone not familiar, a blog is almost like a roll of paper, only on screen, a bit like a toilet roll only not as useful. You write as the mood takes you, and readers add their comments.

Q Not many other areas of Kent have such a thriving internet presence, so why do you think the blogging scene in Thanet has taken off?

A I would suggest that blogging locally owes quite a bit to Simon Moores, who used to have comprehensive links to local weblogs until Kevin Carmody created the Thanet Bloglist. Thanet is lucky to have several keen and competitive bloggers who generally support each other.

Q What are the main issues you like to discuss?

A Currently China Gateway and Northdown House are probably the main issues, al-

though Margate regeneration, Westwood Cross and Dreamland are frequent topics.

More importantly than any main subject is the similarity between all these issues in that I feel, along with most in Thanet, major projects are being backed and promoted without genuine consultation or agreement by the public.

Q What other blogs do you hold in high regard?

A Eastcliff Richard is one of the best, but he's such a prima donna; David Green's Eastcliff Matters, Tara Plumbing; Michael Child's Thanetonline, Matt's Thanetstar... to be honest, the ones I've mentioned are among the most prolific. There are others, less frequent in their postings but equally good, like Thanet Coast Life, Taxi Driver – Inside and Out of a Taxi.

Q Your cat, Mr Puss, has become a bit of an anti-hero – what does he make of all the attention?

A He doesn't care for it much – that's why he chose to become a fat cat in the private sector rather than the public sector. He keeps a fairly low profile, usually skulking in the undergrowth or behind the TV.

Q If your house was burning down, what one thing would you save?

A That is a tough one, most likely Mr Puss, although my computer would take priority if I was in the middle of blogging.

Q What do you do for a living?

A I work as a trackman (railway maintenance), which involves a lot travelling. You might be out in the countryside one day and the next in London.

If you like working outside, it's a great job; the downside is that most work is carried out at weekends.

Q As an area what are the best and worst things about Thanet?

A The worst aspect of Thanet must be local planning... Westwood Cross built with no consideration as to how it would affect Margate high street and traffic across Thanet, and the council bending over backwards to assist developers who've destroyed much of our heritage, and soon the fields around Manston. And for whose benefit? Not ours... even Thanet Earth, which will have seven glasshouses each the size of ten football pitches churning out peppers etc.

The best of Thanet is the things that the council can't cock up or hasn't quite got round to yet, like Northdown Park, Dane Park, Margate beach, Ramsgate harbour and the sunset in Margate.

Q If you had just one wish for the future of Thanet, what would it be?

A To have a local council that works for the benefit of local people, not any old developer with a few quid in their back pocket.

Q & A

The internet blogger from Big News Margate talks to **Tom Betts** about how he fell into his bad habit, the manner in which his famous fat cat Mr Puss tackles stardom, and the best and worst things about the isle

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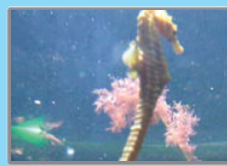
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Seahorses are increasing in numbers in the English Channel. To see more, search 'seahorse'



Rocket man Yves Rossy lands in Kent after crossing the Channel in 10 minutes. Search 'yves'



Uncle Albert lookalike joins cast members at Only Fools and Horses convention in Maidstone. Search 'fools'



What does designer Wayne Hemmingsway know about developing the Thames Gateway? Search 'wayne'



Singer Kayley with the title track from her album 'Chasing Dreams'. Search 'dreams'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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yourkenttv.co.uk

Boris is blasted over 'barmy' airport plan

BY STEVE KNIGHT

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson needs to learn a thing or two about Kent's landscape, says county council leader and fellow Tory, Paul Carter.

Mr Johnson angered residents, environmentalists and politicians alike this week when he suggested a new airport on an artificial island off Sheppey could be the answer to overcrowding at Heathrow.

Cllr Carter has criticised similar proposals in the past and says there is "no hope" of such a scheme being implemented.

He told KOS Media: "I think Mr Johnson's suggestion is a bridge too far."

"All the mist and fog in the autumn and the wind and potential flood problems in the winter would make Sheppey entirely unsuitable for an airport."

"A much better solution would be to expand Manston airport and bring much-needed prosperity to the east of the county."

"We are making our views known to Mr Johnson's office, but the sooner we get together the better."

"I don't think he even knows where Manston is, so clearly needs educating about it. I find it very frustrating when he says things like this and we obviously need to have a chat."

Cllr Carter said he did not expect to be able to speak to Mr Johnson at the Tory party conference this week, but he added he would at one of two meetings the pair will be attending next month.

Mr Johnson's comments also angered members of KCC's Labour group, who say the mayor is trying to placate west London voters opposed to the growth of Heathrow.

Shadow cabinet spokesman Cllr Roger Truelove described it as "another barmy Tory proposal".



NO HOPE: Boris Johnson's comments about an airport near Sheppey have angered KCC leader Paul Carter



He added: "Mr Johnson is clearly putting London first and is showing a complacent disregard for Kent."

"The notion an airport could be built in the Thames estuary and then linked somehow to the high-speed domestic train service from Sittingbourne is schoolboy thinking."

"The investment overheads at a time of cost pressures on the whole air passenger industry are truly prohibitive. Kent has insufficient commercial and passenger hinterland to justify a London airport. All logic suggests the obvious location for growth, if it is really necessary, is to the west of London."

"What strikes me as truly disturbing is that the Mayor of London can make these sorts of remarks with, presumably, no consultation with his colleagues in Kent."

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

highlights the fact that the Thames estuary has one of the biggest groups of special protection areas in Europe and is used by some 300,000 migratory birds.

South East director Chris Corrigan said that to build an airport in it would potentially be "the single biggest piece of environmental vandalism" ever perpetrated in the UK.

He added: "Mr Johnson doesn't seem to have grasped UK law that before you destroy a protected habitat you have to recreate it somewhere else first."

"How do you recreate massive areas of the Thames estuary? And even then he would have to prove there is no alternative site for the expansion anywhere else. It's just ludicrous. We have been here before and the facts remain the same – the idea of an airport in the Thames estuary is a total non-starter."

Good report for foster service

KENT County Council has received good grades in an inspection report from Ofsted on its fostering service.

There are more than 700 foster carers around the county supporting KCC's work in protecting and looking after children. Inspectors spoke to young people, their carers and support staff as part of the review.

The category rated as outstanding was for "helping children make a positive contribution" which covered contact with family and friends, sensitivity to the needs of biological parents and the involvement by children in the planning and delivery of services.

Ofsted inspector Lucy Ansell said in her report: "This is a strong service that delivers good outcomes, with elements of outstanding practice within the specialist services and for positive contribution overall."

KCC's Leyland Ridings said: "I am very pleased with this inspection report, particularly the 'outstanding' rating for a key area of our fostering service. I pay tribute to our foster carers and staff for their work."

"We will continue to work with children and carers to make further improvements and action the recommendations made by the inspection team."

Join the Gurkhas for a celebration

KENT'S Nepalese community is set to celebrate its most renowned festival, Dashera.

The celebration represents the victory of good over evil and symbolises reunion with family and friends.

Guests at the event in Maidstone can expect traditional Nepalese dancing and delicious food.

Hundreds of serving and former Gurkhas, who are recruited from Nepal, live in Kent with their families.

Limbu Ratna, chairman of the county town's Nepalese community organisation, said: "We want to share this special festival with our friends in Maidstone and look forward to welcoming them."

The 15-day national festival traditionally takes place after the rice harvest. The Kent celebration will be at Maidstone Leisure Centre from 7.30-10pm on Friday.

For more information, phone 07828 129 099 or email dkhadka024@yahoo.co.uk.

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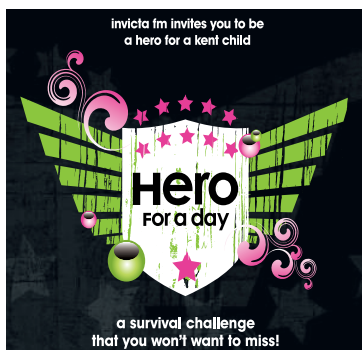
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Survival event is for a good cause

INVICTA FM's Help a Kent Child has joined with Treejumpers Adventure Centres for a survival challenge.

The challenge at the centre near Longfield on Saturday, October 25, puts forward a military-style scenario in which a spy plane has crashed in the middle of enemy territory in an adventure part-run by the group.

A spokesman for the event said: "You must complete challenges in order to find your way back to the safety of base camp. These will include shelter and fire building, camouflage and concealment, navigation and the day will end with a paintball battle."

"We are also running a fancy-dress theme, so don't forget to come in camouflage or military uniform to really get in the mood."

Everyone entering will receive a T-shirt and everyone completing the challenge will receive a medal commemorating the day.

The spokesman said: "The day will be based around teams of eight to ten. You can either gather together your friends and workmates, or if you want to come along with a couple of friends or on your own, we will put you together with other people to form a team."

To take part and reserve your place, phone 01227 774427, or alternatively log on to www.invictafm.co.uk/charity, or cut out and fill in the entry form (right).

Teams of 10 cost £200 entry fee, or individuals £25. Sponsorship per person should be at least £75.

invictafm
HELP A KENT CHILD

Help a Kent Child is Invicta FM's own charity which aims to give the same opportunities to Kent children and young people who experience poverty and disadvantage or who are experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence and crime as well as those who have an illness or disability.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

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Mobile: Daytime phone:

Team Name:

☐ Whilst my objective is to raise as much sponsorship as possible, I make a commitment to raise a minimum of £75 in sponsored donations, which I will bring on the day of the event (post dated cheques to be made out to Help a Kent Child).

☐ By signing and returning this form, I acknowledge that Gcap Charities Limited and Invicta FM Limited (including their employees or agents) shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury to either you or your property (other than as a result of negligence) during or in connection to this event. Any participant who has any concerns about his or her physical condition is advised to consult his/her own doctor before taking part in the event. You are advised to arrange your own personal accident insurance.

Signed Date

Parental/Legal guardian consent (for under 18s)

I, the undersigned, as parent/legal guardian for the person named above, hereby give my consent to his/her participation in the above event and shall ensure that he/she observes all the rules and directions given by any of the organisers of the event while on the premises. Furthermore, I hereby acknowledge and agree that participation in the event is entirely at his/her own risk and Fairbridge Kent, Gcap Charities Limited and Invicta FM Limited (including their employees or agents) shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury to either you, the participant or your respective property (other than as a result of negligence) during or in connection to this event.

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Signed Date

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Cathedral set to honour Sir Sandy

A SERVICE of Thanksgiving for the life of Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart is to be held at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday, November 27, starting at 11am.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart was the leader of Kent County Council from 1997 until he retired in 2005. He died earlier this year, aged 66, after a battle with cancer.

The chairman of Kent County Council Peter Lake

said: "He was a true reformer of local government and public services and devoted enormous time and energy to Kent County Council during the eight years he was leader."

Everyone is welcome to pay their respects, although due to the large numbers likely to attend, entrance to the cathedral will be by ticket only.



Stars line up to make Roger's day

BBC Radio Kent's Roger Day is taking a break from his 7pm-10pm evening show to let some big names from the world of comedy, sports presenting and music fill in.

BBC television sports presenter John Inverdale will sit in for Roger today, while comedian and Never Mind the Buzzcocks team captain Phill Jupitus will sit in for Roger tomorrow and Friday.

Managing editor Paul Leaper said: "Roger's show is a big hit with our listeners and serves the important evening audience as they return home from work from all across the region."

"It's great to have so many top-class names from the worlds of music and entertainment keen to take the chance to share their own musical tastes with our audience."

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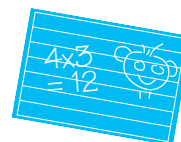
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Sporting ambitions to go further

TWO Isle women are receiving specialist physical education training as part of a county council drive to engage more children in sport.

Lynette Harris, 34, of Romilly Gardens, Ramsgate, and Louise Warne, 37, of St Catherine's Grove, Manston, are embarking on a foundation degree in childhood studies with PE at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The programme, run in conjunction with the Kent Advisory Service, will also give them a formal qualification and the opportunity to

■ BY TOM BETTS

continue their studies if they wish to become fully qualified teachers.

Lynette worked in the armed forces for more than seven years and is a teaching assistant at the Ursuline College in Westgate.

Encourage

She said: "I have a real passion for sport and started working with children a few years ago. This programme has taught me a lot and

motivated me to get a lot more people in touch with sport."

Louise, who is a higher-level teaching assistant at St Laurence Church of England primary school, said: "Schools should really encourage young children and get them switched on to sport."

"I love this programme. It is interesting working with other higher-level teaching assistants and sharing experiences."

The university's subject leader for physical education, Paul Carney, said: "This programme addresses a real need to develop PE expertise in schools, particularly primary schools, to continue to raise the quality of

PE, and in part may support the battle against childhood obesity.

"The foundation degree formerly recognises the achievements of those working with children and young people and allows participants to continue working full-time in their current jobs while studying part-time."

"Teaching assistants and childcare practitioners may also use this as a stepping stone to further academic qualifications and a route into full-time teaching."

Interested in applying for this programme? Then phone Canterbury Christ Church University's admissions office on 01227 782900, or email admissions@canterbury.ac.uk.

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BREAK TIME

Marlowe Academy pair get double first in Tall Ships race



SEA LEGS: Martyn Adams and Jordan Phillips helped crew the Stavros S Niarchos to the Netherlands

HIGH seas, driving rain and storm-force winds held no fear for Marlowe Academy sixth-formers Martyn Adams and Jordan Phillips.

They helped crew a traditional 18th-century-style square-rigged brig in the Tall Ships race from Norway to the Netherlands.

With more than 40 other shipmates from the UK, they were flown out to Norway to join their ship the Stavros S Niarchos.

It was a double first for Martyn and Jordan, as neither of them had flown before or even been aboard a ship.

This was a confidence-building experience with a difference – learning from experienced mariners all aspects of sailing, including climbing the rigging and setting the sails, tying knots and rope-work.

Martyn was first to climb to the top-

gallant yard. He later picked up a 'competent crew' qualification.

The pair learnt to work as a team without being pampered as they faced difficult conditions. Their ship finished a creditable 12th out of 30 in the race.

Martyn said: "It was the experience of a lifetime and hard work. I would love to do it again. I wasn't worried about the weather, but I was worried about getting out of Aberdeen. Nothing against Aberdeen, but we had to criss-cross to catch the wind."

Jordan added: "It was a fantastic adventure"

The students' voyage was made possible by a grant from the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust.

Mr De Haan, founder and former chairman of Saga, the over-50s holiday and insurance company, sponsors the Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate.

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Tory councillor Chris Wells urges the local authority to broadcast live from Cecil Square

Gateway debate is a chance to show democracy at work

NEXT week – Thursday, October 9, to be exact – Thanet District Council makes one of its biggest decisions for some years.

The planning application for what has become known as China Gateway has caused a tremendous stir among some parts of the local community.

It brings head to head a clash of lifestyle, culture and expectation – between those who choose to live here for the natural environment and those who wish to push for jobs and economic regeneration.

The picture is further clouded by the rules and regulations that surround planning application processes, including the mysterious pre-determination rule, by which councillors in this quasi-legal scenario should not declare their position in advance.

For the public at large, this can be seen cynically as an attempt to hide what is really happening, and what each of our real positions is when we get into that vital meeting.

The public gallery at the council chamber

holds perhaps 80 people; others on big nights can watch on a screen linking to overflow rooms.

But even then, only a couple of hundred or so can possibly see and hear the speeches and rationales of councillors on the night.

Yet the council chamber at Thanet District Council has the technology to broadcast meetings on the internet.

It has never been used, although this is a regular feature at Kent County Council, where web-casts of public meetings are the norm and are sometimes logged into by a surprising number of people.

I believe there has never been a better moment for Thanet council to use this technology and allow many more people to see and hear how and why the authority makes the decision that it comes to on October 9.

Currently, the reporting of the debate and decision will be in the hands of the journalists, and the few who are present, most of whom will be either strongly favouring or opposing the application, so others will only hear the debate through their own filters.

On this night, above all, we should not just ensure that democracy is properly exercised, but we should be sure it is seen to be properly exercised by as many people as possible.

This would prevent the continuing waves of accusation and rumour that have dogged this issue from the very start.

It would also prevent any councillor from being tempted to hide what their voting position was on the night, for fear of losing or upsetting voters.

Most importantly of all, nobody could claim they did not have the chance to hear all the whys, wherefores and thinking that led to the final decision.

So, come on Thanet council, get into the 21st century and allow people across the island to see how carefully we weigh vital decisions like these.

You never know, they may even watch (and learn) from China!

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Thanet blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk.

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VISITORS to Bluewater should get ready for a fairytale surprise as the Remington Shine Roadshow is coming to town on October 4-5.

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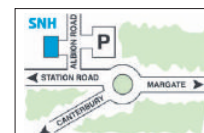
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TALK TIME

PETER CHECKSFIELD

Peter Checksfield is a naturist and webmaster of the Naked in Thanet website, which attracts interest from all the world



Do you think people have a stuffy attitude to naturism?

Attitudes have changed considerably over the past couple of decades or so and nowadays those who actively oppose it seem to be in the minority.

I think much of this is due to the changing attitudes of the media, and in particular television, where non-sexual nudity can be seen almost nightly. Locally, I like to think that I've done my little bit to help change attitudes over the past few years, particularly via my website.

On my site the age range varies and is from size 8 to size 20, yet the one thing they all have in common is that they look perfectly comfortable with their bodies. I'm also helping to put Thanet on the worldwide map, as I get several thousand hits daily from all around the world.

For those who don't know, where in Thanet can naturists go?

Anywhere they want to. Seriously. Legally it is OK to be naked in public absolutely anywhere unless there are specific by-laws stating otherwise (and there certainly aren't any in Thanet), and Kent Police have stated that they won't arrest anyone whom they consider to be doing genuine naturist activities.

But – and here's the confusing bit – the law also states that it's illegal to deliberately cause offence by being naked. So, in practice, I wouldn't advise anyone to walk through Westwood Cross shopping centre naked, nor should they use the most popular beaches such as Margate main sands or Viking Bay, but otherwise there's no reason they can't strip off almost anywhere that's reasonably quiet.

I'd also advise people to use their own gardens if they want to.

YOUR LETTERS

Families lose out under the Tories

CHRIS Wells in last week's blog slates JK Rowlings, the creator of Harry Potter, for giving a £1 million donation to the Labour Party.

Cllr Wells really should take a long, hard look at some of the Tory Party donors, particularly Lord Ashcroft, a Belizean national (for tax purposes), with his multi-million-pound donations, before passing any judgement on JK Rowling.

JK Rowling has made good and probably knows much better than most who to trust when it comes to deciding which party takes care of those who need the most support in our society.

Our government has gone a long way towards helping hard-pressed families: the minimum wage, working families tax credits, paid maternity and paternity leave, and many more family-friendly policies.

These were all policies which were opposed by the Tories, and all of which will undoubtedly be removed if the Tories win the next election so that they can give big tax cuts to the big earners.

Labour may still have a long way to go towards halving child poverty, but at least it is going in the right direction.

I fail to understand how Cllr Wells can maintain that the Tories are a family-friendly party. Their track record proves that completely the opposite is true.

The Tories are only interested in making money for themselves and their small band of followers at the expense of the hard-working majority.

Alan Poole
KCC member for Ramsgate

Gateway questions need answering

MEMBERS of Kent Green Party are concerned about the China Gateway project proposed to be built in Thanet.

This is a vast complex where apparently goods from China will come to be trans-shipped.

I say 'apparently' because the exact nature of the business is obscure.

I have carefully perused the planning application and the only clues as to what will be going on here is that there will be a huge 'showroom', masses of warehousing, plus parking for more than 2,000 vehicles.

There are a number of grounds on which many local people are objecting to this project, eg environmental, loss of greenfield land, potential pollution of the aquifer, huge increases in traffic, uncertainty about the project and how many real jobs will be created.

However, we believe that a major factor that is barely being considered is the totally unsuitable logistics of this site.

Firstly, there are no rail connections, so all the tens of thousands of goods movements each year will be by road.

Secondly, the proposed site is right next door to the airport at Manston. Are the developers really planning to ship goods to and fro by air? This would mean a massive increase in flights – hardly good for the planet or Thanet.

Thirdly, if the developers are using sea transport from China, then it would mean that all containers would need to come to Rotterdam, Tilbury, Felixstowe or Southampton, where they would then need to be reloaded either to trucks to be sent by road, or to smaller ships servicing Dover or Ramsgate harbours, where

again they need trans-shipping to the Manston site. This would all be extremely cost-inefficient.

Fourthly, everyone knows that Thanet's comparatively poor economy is mainly due the fact that the area is at the end of a peninsula (Kent), with sea around three sides.

This means that Thanet's 'hinterland' only goes in one direction (westwards), so there is an extremely limited market catchment.

This is the main reason the low-cost EUjet airline failed.

Given all these facts we wrote to the planning officer at Thanet council asking a pertinent set of questions. The council was not able or willing to answer these questions, yet it is essential to get answers before allowing a development of this magnitude to proceed.

Since there appears to be no realistic, published business plan, we see no chance that this development will prove successful.

Failure will have a hugely negative impact.

Using the polluter-pays principle, are the developers ready to pick up the bill to restore the land to green fields if the project fails?

Dr Geoff Meaden
Kent Green Party

Silent majority are now speaking up

CONCERNING last week's letter from Ann Sanders, I should say that most of the 'leaders' of the anti-China Gateway 'activists' are not people who complain about everything; in fact many have only recently begun to voice opinions because they have been woken up to what is going on in Thanet.

I fail to see how their concerns can be called propaganda.

If Ms Sanders was threatened

with a huge, noisy, glaring development at the top of her garden, I suspect her reaction might be different.

I notice that Ms Sanders lives in Margate.

It is a pity that the proposed China Gateway development would have no effect upon her at all – unless she should be delayed on the Thanet Way by the fleets of HGVs chugging into Thanet.

Sheila Bransfield
Acol

Let us take matters into our own hands

HERE in Thanet our illustrious leaders are talking up the China Gateway development, hopefully bringing prosperity and the prospect of new jobs for the area by covering our ever-decreasing green fields with concrete.

Meanwhile, there is more than a feeling that the country as a whole is losing control.

Every day brings even more gloomy news, with inflation at a 10-year high, the housing market in dire straits, jobs being cast away in their thousands, retailing in the doldrums, and the repossession of homes in ever-increasing volumes.

In our communities, crime is on the increase and with the prospect of less police presence here in Birchington and Westgate.

Crime here is petty compared with some parts of the country, but we will all need to be more vigilant and it's yet another unnecessary worry.

The bobby on his beat always gives confidence to everyone he meets – we need more police coverage, not less.

The knock-on effect of the present oil crisis brings a big hike in transport, food, household and energy costs.

Our prime minister and his

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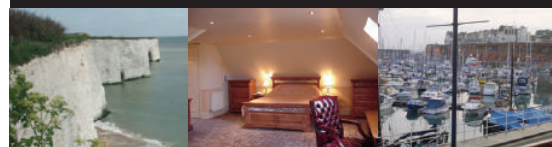
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government seem to have lost control, as well. Gordon Brown's chance of persuading the British public and indeed his own cabinet that he is the right man for the job is almost nil.

All we seem to see is a plethora of new ideas and policies which look as though they have been cobbled together on the back of an envelope in the vain hope that this will save the Government from sinking into oblivion.

This country needs a political system that gives every voter real power by making government smaller at the centre and by ensuring that money raised is spent locally down to parish and town levels through their elected councillors.

That way voters get a real choice how it is spent and how their own community develops, including planning, so that valid local objections are not overruled by faceless bureaucrats in their ivory towers.

Bill Furness
Birchington Liberal Democrats

Thanks for enabling museum to continue

I AM very pleased that Broadstairs and St Peters town council finance and general purposes committee unanimously agreed to support the Crampton Tower Museum with funding, enabling it to remain open in the short term.

The committee also agreed to create a sub-committee to formulate a viable plan to provide the museum with a long-term future.

That plan is to be presented to the town council in November.

We have always had a strong working relationship with our town council and have enjoyed its support with many of our events and projects, and I am sure that this situation will go from strength to strength.

The museum management committee has continued to plan for the future despite the financial uncertainties of 2008. We are continuing with our accreditation programme and are developing our links with educational establishments and agencies.

After the traditional season ends on October 31, we are remaining open for Saturdays and Sundays during the winter season and are planning some late-year events.

We open again on a daily basis on the second weekend in March.

Confidence has returned and I am sure that morale of the hard-working volunteers will be as high as ever.

They will continue to strive in providing the town of Broadstairs and the district of Thanet with a worthy educational facility and enjoyable attraction.

Peter Shaw
Crampton Tower Museum

So much talk, so little getting done

WE would like to thank all the Margate traders and local residents who attended the public meeting on September 15 at the baptist church.

Special thanks to the Reverend Stephen Biddall for the free use of the church hall.

A number of comments were made which need rectifying.

Thanet council leader Sandy Ezekiel told the meeting that Freshwater had a 999-year lease on Arlington House and Square.

This is not correct. The lease dated from 1965 is for 199 years.

We should also point out that Thanet council is the freeholder and should be forcing Freshwater to meet the conditions laid down in the original agreement on repairs and maintenance.

It should also under new rules be paying business rates on the empty shops it priced out of the range of local traders and which have laid empty for years.

Cllr Ezekiel blamed traders for not publishing the Saturday free parking at Mill Lane.

This is unfair.

We, as ward councillors, and mostly traders and residents, only heard about this 'on the hoof' decision by Cllr Martin Wise when we read it in the local press.

This was neither in any budget statement nor committee approval document.

Finally, we have spent the last five years asking for help with street-cleaning and note the press statement that Cllr Shirley Tomlinson is 'setting up a task force'.

There are already two 'task forces' that she must be aware of as she attended the original meetings.

Unfortunately, we and those we speak to, have yet to see any of the improvements we requested.

We plan to arrange the third meeting in November, when we hope Thanet council will not just use the opportunity for a PR exercise.

Cllrs Iris Johnston and John Watkins (Labour)
Margate Central ward

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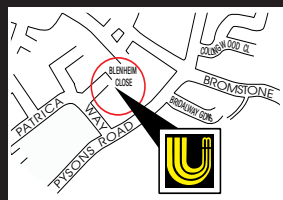


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ANDROGYNOUS: Boy George's striking looks and outrageous dressing made him stand out from the crowd in his home town of Eltham

Yes we can be inspired

Boy George brings some culture to Kent

THE boy is back in town as one of Britain's most striking vocalists brings his stunning voice to entertain Kent audiences.

After enjoying successful concerts earlier this year, the former Culture Club singer is back in the county ahead of the release of his new single on October 12. He has been so inspired by the US presidential campaign of Democrat candidate Barack Obama that the new song, Yes We Can, contains samples from Obama's stirring speeches.

But although George is backing Obama – potentially the first black president – above his Republican rival John McCain, he stressed that the song is not about politics.

"It's about me, what I've been going through," he said. "It was just inspirational in the sense that Obama's got quite a hopeful approach, if you look at what's been going on in the last few years with the right wing."

"What he has to offer is lighter and

BOY GEORGE

Thursday, October 2
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



gentler and he has great charisma."

George, 47, clearly relates to Obama's message, but the song also marks a new perspective on the fame which has proved to be a mixed blessing in the past.

George O'Dowd was born in Eltham, London, the third eldest of seven children. Attention was hard to come by so George expressed his individuality by dressing outrageously. His androgynous look caught the attention of pop guru Malcolm McLaren, the man behind the Sex Pistols, and George began appearing with a group called Bow Wow Wow.

Shortly afterwards George formed his own band, Culture Club. The debut album, Kissing To Be Clever, was released in 1982 and the third single, Do You Really Want To Hurt Me?, was their first major hit. It reached the number one spot in 16 countries and number two in

America, making a star of eye-catching vocalist Boy George.

But chart success was coupled with drug addiction, along with harsh media scrutiny of his personal life, and the group disbanded just four years later.

George initially enjoyed a successful solo career during the late 80s and early 90s, but the hits began to dry up and he gradually turned his attention to the club scene where he has become a leading DJ.

He has had a series of brushes with the law over the last few years, including arrests on suspicion of cocaine possession and, most recently, false imprisonment.

But, armed with a fresh perspective and his outstanding soul voice, Boy George is inviting fans to join him on a new musical journey.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £25/£23. Call the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or book online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk. Boy George will also be appearing at The Churchill in Bromley on Thursday, October 30.



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GYPSY

Wednesday to Saturday, October 8-11
Granville Theatre, Ramsgate



THE memoirs of a famous burlesque stripper are brought back to life on the stage in hit musical Gypsy.

This Thanet premiere is presented by East Kent Productions and Michael Wheatley-Ward and forms part of the Canterbury Festival. The musical fable tells the story of Rose, an overbearing stage mother who attempts to live out her dream by pushing her younger daughter June into a vaudeville career.

When June elopes with a dancer, Rose transfers her attentions to her less talented older daughter Louise. But when she succeeds in transforming Louise into famous stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, Rose realises she is no longer needed in her daughter's career.

Show-stopping numbers include Everything's Coming Up Roses, Let Me Entertain You and Together Wherever We Go. The show first opened on Broadway in 1959 and later inspired a film and a TV movie, the latter of which starred Bette Midler.

The opening night will be a special VIP event attended by local celebrities but members of the public can also buy tickets.

Tickets are from £9. To book call 01843 591750.



HA HA HAMLET!

Wednesday, October 8
Theatre Royal, Margate



IF Shakespeare had written Hamlet as a comedy, what would it have been like?

This question will be answered in Ha Ha Hamlet!, in which three street performers present all the best bits, well-known quotes and 'loads of the gags that Shakespeare wishes he'd kept in'. The show is

described as a cross between Mr Bean and James Bond, played out against an Elsinore Castle made entirely from suitcases.

The play's writer Ben Langley has worked as a street performer in London's Covent Garden for 13 years and has won the Bristol Harbour Festival Street Performer of the Year Award. He has even performed his one-man show twice at parties at comedian Mel Smith's house.

Andrew Fettes trained as an actor and is now a regular pantomime performer, while his tribute to Manuel from classic sitcom Fawlty Towers is a sought-after act.

Mike Raffone also works as an actor and cabaret artist and has become of the Covent Garden's great hits with his comedy escapology show, The Great Escape.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12.50/£10. To book call 0845 130 1786 or 01227 787787.

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

Saturday and Sunday, October 11-12
Theatre Royal, Margate



AUDIENCE can choose their murderer in the latest production by the Really Promising Company.

The community theatre company presents its Canterbury Festival contribution, a whodunit musical based on an unfinished novel by Charles Dickens. The Mystery of Edwin Drood offers a myriad of possible endings, with an array of characters who could have committed the dreadful crime.

Audiences will be invited to vote for their preferred culprit and see how the action plays out. Set in a Victorian music hall, the show features a play within a play, as the amateur actors



play both 'onstage' characters and their 'backstage' counterparts.

The eponymous Edwin Drood is at the heart of a love quadrangle, as it is revealed that both his uncle John Jasper and new acquaintance Neville Landless are in love with his fiancée Rosa.

Experiencing misgivings

about their engagement, the couple decide to break it off. But before they can reveal the news, Edwin disappears and the hunt is on to find a murderer.

Tickets cost £12 or concessions £10. To book call 01227 378188, 0845 130 1786 or 01227 787787 or visit www.canterburyfestival.co.uk.

THANET LEISURE

Latest project space is full of eastern promise

CONSUMER and cultural relationships with the East are explored in the Turner Contemporary exhibition Far West.

The major cross-art form project features work by artists from China, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand as well as Europe and the US. The project space in Margate has been transformed into an interactive 'concept store' with a programme of participation events, talks and films. Far West runs from Saturday to January 4, see www.turnercontemporary.org.

Gospel singer promises to rock at church hall

ACCLAIMED slide guitar player and singer/songwriter Bryn Haworth will be performing in Broadstairs next week.

On Saturday, October 11, Haworth will be giving a concert of uplifting gospel blues and country rock. He has played with famous artists such as the legendary Led Zeppelin and recorded as a session guitarist with Chris de Burgh and Cliff Richard.

The concert will be at The Vale Church URC hall in The Vale, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced at £10, are available from The Sound House in High Street or by calling 01843 867281.

Band celebrate a funky anniversary with gig

SOUL funk band EK1 will celebrate a quarter of a century in the music business next year.

The popular covers band continues to delight audiences as its 25th anniversary approaches. See them playing live at the Britannia in Fort Hill, Margate, on Friday.

For more details about the gig call the pub on 01843 223269. More information about EK1 is at www.ek1band.co.uk.

Enjoy every breath you take with tribute act

PUT a message in a bottle and send out an SOS for Kent's only Police tribute band this weekend.

The Police Squad, a six-piece band celebrating the music of Sting and company, will be at the Horse and Groom in Charlotte Court, Ramsgate, on Sunday.

Call 01843 587687 for more about the venue. Find out more about the band at www.thepolicesquad.moonfruit.com.

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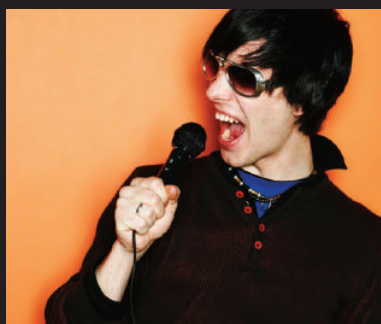
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MEN can now dress up or down with accessories from Burton.

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Be bold and bohemian with accessory store

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STARS IN THE MAKING: Sons of Alpha Centauri star on The Ether



JUMP TO IT: Black Kids get the crowd rocking during a gig in Kent

The Kent chart

1. Steve Furlong - Nothing (from Birchington)
2. Kayley Weller - A Long Drive Home (from Deal)
3. D-Finitive - Space (Tenterden)
4. Ron Bowdry - Strange Sights On Bluebell Hill (from New Eltham)
5. Springtide Cavalry - No Short Cut (from Folkestone)

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A world of entertainment



SOMETHING SPECIAL: Camera Obscura (left) and Jose Gonzalez (right) are just two of the nine acts lined-up to perform at this year's forthcoming Canterbury Festival

COUNCIL events organisers have all the fun.

From what I can gather, the powers-that-be hand down a vague list of demands and a moderate budget to said organisers who then get on and, erm, organise things.

The trick, it would seem, is in organising something that we hard-paying taxpayers actually want.

With this in mind I tip my cap to the team behind next month's Canterbury Festival, and in particular the people responsible for sorting out the 'world music' line-up - they've done a sterling job.

Among the nine acts on show across the two week festival are a group of Buddhist monks, a Senegalese orchestra, Mick Fleetwood (yes, the Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac fame) and cult Scottish indie rockers Camera Obscura.

I think it's fair to say the organisers have come good on both the 'world' and 'music' parts of their brief.

Here's a run-down of my top five musical picks of the festival:

1) CAMERA OBSCURA

• If you are not a huge Camera Obscura fan

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

then the only explanation is that you can't have heard any of their music. There is no other alternative. Songs such as Lloyd I'm Ready To Be Heartbroken, Eighties Fan and Tears for Affairs are classic toe-tappers and achingly beautiful. The Scottish six-piece play the Marlowe Theatre on Thursday, October 16. Doors at 7.30pm. Tickets start at £12, £8 for students.

2) SHLOMO AND THE VOCAL ORCHESTRA

• Shlomo's 'orchestra' is made up of eight beatboxers. Through the power of co-ordination and timing, they rock. The festival's official guide bills Shlomo as leading "the most of-the-moment vocal group in high-energy performance of amazing beatboxing feats and jaw-dropping vocal interpretations". They rock. Catch them at the Gulbenkian Theatre on Monday, October 20. Doors open at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £14, £12 for students.

3) JOSE GONZALEZ

• Jose's big break came courtesy of Sony's 'bouncing balls' TV advert, to which he supplied his version of Heartbeats. A gold

and platinum award-winning top-ten album later, the Argentinian-Swedish singer songwriter comes to the Marlowe Theatre on Friday, October 17. Doors at 8pm. Tickets start at £18.50.

4) THE MICK FLEETWOOD BLUES BAND

• This gig includes a tribute to the original Fleetwood Mac, the all-male blues band that started it all in 1967. Featuring former Mac singer and lead guitarist Rick Vito and Mr Mick Fleetwood himself, this is one performance not to be missed. Mick and co take to the Marlowe Theatre on Saturday, October 25. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets range from £26.50-£28.50.

5) THE MAGNETS

• I'll be honest, I don't know much about The Magnets, but the pre-festival bumpf describes them as a "sharp-suited all-male a cappella sextet who perform with unrivalled sophistication, charisma and flair". To quote the film Jerry Maguire, "You had me at hello". The Magnets play the Gulbenkian Theatre on Wednesday, October 22. Doors open at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £14, £2 less for students.

• For more information on the two-week festival visit www.canterburyfestival.co.uk.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

RIGHTEOUS KILL (15)



After 30 years as partners in the pressure-cooker environment of the New York Police Department, highly decorated detectives Turk (Robert De Niro) and Rooster (Al Pacino) aren't ready to retire. There's still work to be done after a series of murders of suspected criminals around the city, with a serial killer on the loose.

DEATH RACE (15)



A penitentiary full of felons has inspired the jailers to create a grisly pastime ripe for lucrative kickbacks. Now, adrenalised inmates, a global audience hungry for televised violence and a spectacular arena come together to form the Death Race. Three-time speedway champion Jensen Ames is given an easy choice by Terminal Island's warden (Joan Allen): suit up or rot away in a cell.

TAKEN (15)



An ex-soldier (Liam Neeson) travelling through Europe embarks on a frantic quest to rescue his daughter (Maggie Grace) after the young girl is abducted by slave traders in District B13 director Pierre Morel's contemporary thriller. Robert Mark Kamen joins the screenwriting team which also includes Morel and long-time collaborator Luc Besson, who also produces.

This Bud's for Kevin

BY ELLIE GENOWER

HIS star may have fallen off the movie chart of late, but Kevin Costner still shines in many hearts and minds as the swash-buckling hero of Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves.

His most famous screen characters – the saviour of Whitney Houston in The Bodyguard or the frontier cowboy in epic Oscar-winner Dances With Wolves – are remembered fondly as all-out winners.

How times have changed. Yes, Kevin is still a movie star, although he may be a little less famous these days, but his newest role sees him portray a bona fide loser.

Now 53, Kevin plays beer-swilling Texan trailer-trash Bud Johnson in new comedy movie Swing Vote.

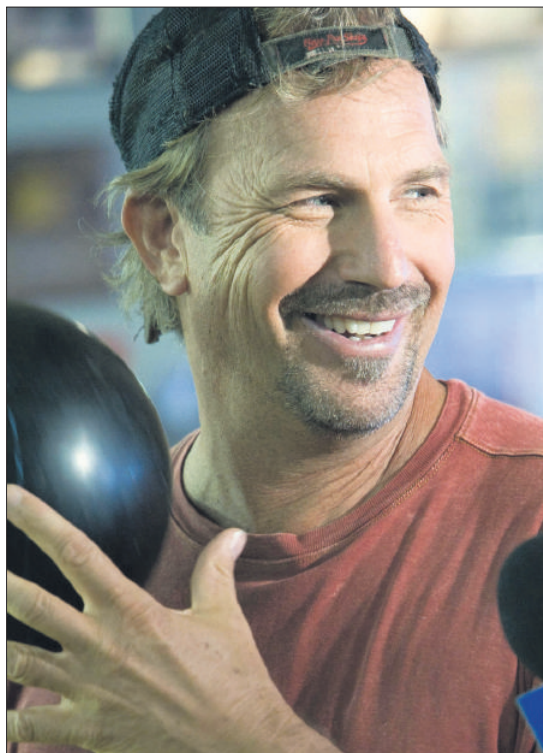
The film starts with Bud's 11-year-old daughter Molly accidentally setting off a chain of events which leads to the American presidential election coming down to just one vote – Bud's.

Unfortunately, he happens to be as apathetic as they come. Cue Kelsey Grammar's Republican President incumbent Andrew Boone and Democratic hopeful Donald Greenleaf (Dennis Hopper), doing everything they can to get Bud's vote and win the White House.

It sounds like a ridiculous set-up, but Kevin picked the role because he believes the film does have serious things to say.

"There's a lot of us in Bud," he explains. "I don't think people like Bud are just in the lower economic stratosphere. There's a lot of apathy in people."

"There's disenfranchisement in



HAVING A BALL: Kevin Costner as deadbeat dad Bud Johnson in Swing Vote

the single mom who just can't find time to vote because she's working too damn hard. People who don't vote aren't just people who don't have a lot, or who lack ambition. It's right across the board."

Of course, with the US presidential election coming up on November 4, the film could be seen as a timely reminder to Americans to get out and vote. But Kevin insists that's not the

case. "I hope it will stand up as a classic American comedy," he says.

Clearly a determined man, Kevin wasn't put off by a reluctance from some quarters to cough up the cash to put Swing Vote into production. He ended up producing and financing the movie himself.

His lack of fear, as he puts it, has seen the actor and director go it alone on many successful – and

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not so successful – productions.

He was not afraid to release epic movies such as the big budget Waterworld (1995) and The Postman (1997), which both flopped at the box office.

And while his movies were floundering in the late Nineties, his personal life was also disintegrating. He and Cindy, his wife of 16 years and mum to his three children, divorced in 1995.

He then found love again with German model Christine Baumgartner, whom he married in 2004. Their son, Cayden, is now 14 months old.

No longer a spring chicken, Kevin is all too aware of the pressures of ageing in Hollywood. But he maintains that he is more than comfortable in his own skin.

"I want to stay healthy because I still want to be attractive to my wife," he declares with a smile.

"My wife's a good partner. You've got to try for your partner. I expect her to try for me. I don't want to get lazy. I don't want to be embarrassed about how I carry myself or how I look."

"I want to be my age, but I'm going to be the best I can at my age."



SWING VOTE
Certificate 12A

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CENTURY SCREEN
THE WOMEN (12A)
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MAMMA MIA! (PG)
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BIJOU SCREEN
TAKEN (15)
8pm
THE DUCHESS (12A)
(2.50 Wed), 5.20 sharp
WILD CHILD (12A)
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YOUR TV REVIEW



THE FAMILY

Channel 4, 9pm, Wednesday



DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

Channel 4, 10pm, Wednesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

IF there's a clear lesson we can learn from the first two episodes of Channel 4's *The Family* – it's never have kids.

Or more to the point, never have daughters, because they grow up to be teenage girls. And that is what they call a rocky road.

Canterbury's Hughes family have allowed the cameras into their home for 100 days and 100 nights, for an all-access documentary.

Brave or foolhardy is something you'll have to decide, with the third episode airing tonight.

Driving dad Simon – a man for whom the term long-suffering could have been solely coined – slowly round the bend are teenage daughters Emily (at 19 the self-confessed 'wild child' of the family) and Charlotte (16, the clever one, who wants to leave school).

As the patriarch slowly goes crackers and takes mum, Jane, with him, we get to watch what goes on from inside the four walls.

As infuriating as this can be, it must be said that in between the rowing and the raised voices over bedroom messes the Hughes, for my money, come across pretty well.

The aim of the show is to present an accurate portrait of family life and it is certainly mission accomplished.

For every second that seems ghastly, there is another that can be touching.

And for each moment of tear your hair out frustration at a conversation going round in circles, there's a knowing smile that defuses a situation – we've all been there.



POINTLESS: Eva Longoria (above) and the cast of *Desperate Housewives* are slowly losing the plot

The poignancy of *The Family* is made all the more apparent by the increasingly naff *Desperate Housewives* which follows immediately after.

Teri Hatcher and her pals are continuing to plough the furrow of ridiculousness in a show which seems to be more a showcase for the actresses' plastic surgeons than it is for serial drama.

Quite what is going on now is anybody's guess and any semblance of cult buzz has long since up and left.

What's most surprising though is the sense that the makers still think this is in some way relevant, cutting-edge television when, really, it's looking as dated as its four lead actresses and hideously twee storylines.

Series one seemed to have a point, a storyline that gelled it altogether, but now it looks more like an ultra glossy soap opera for rehab patients dosed up on Prozac.

Desperate is a big understatement.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A LOVING friend or caring business colleague knows just what to do to make you feel better. Lean on them during times of trial. Changing a large organisation's outlook or attitude may be easier than you think, thanks to your knowledge and experience.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

WHAT seems like a great job could have hidden strings attached. It may be necessary to make an investment in the company or get additional training at your own expense. Think carefully before taking this step. You may be better off with an organisation that requires less of you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

TAKE all the rumours you hear with a grain of salt this week. Always question a person's motives when they're serving up some juicy information. An intense colleague could show you how to channel your frustrations into work. Be willing to follow their suggestions.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

CUTTING yourself off from the world won't give you the peace and quiet you seek. If you're going for true tranquillity you need to make amends with a relative or neighbour. Be first to extend the olive branch. The fact is that you are both guilty or being a little pig-headed.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

DON'T be so generous with your time and money or someone will take advantage of you. There's nothing wrong with this, but when you start having to make economies for the sake of freeloaders, there is a problem. A spiritual inclination may prompt you to disregard material concerns.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

A NEW hobby could be demanding too much of your time and relatives will start to resent this interest. Strive for more balance. A strong-willed friend can show you a better way of handling your personal affairs. Be prepared to hear some difficult home truths from this person.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

JUST because you're making more money doesn't mean the supply is endless. Yes, it's fun to indulge your whims, but it shouldn't be at the cost of your long-term security. Never underestimate the bliss of early retirement. Imagine having the opportunity to travel the world.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOUR connection with a well-heeled group of people could be a drain on your money. Stop agreeing to visit to restaurants and expensive emporiums. The sooner you drop the façade of being independently wealthy, the faster friends will own up to their own financial situations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

DON'T expect too much from a friend, business partner or lover. Their capacity for giving is starting to wear thin. If you want to call upon someone's expertise, be prepared to pay for it. Model your behaviour after someone you have always admired.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN upsurge of emotion could interfere with your career. You've got to fight to keep your personal and professional lives separate. A physical relationship will be a welcome distraction from all the stress. If your boss tries to give you more work, put your foot down.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT won't be so easy to turn over a new leaf as you think. Certain emotional traits are deeply ingrained. If you really want to change you may need the help of a counsellor. This expert can get to the root of your trouble and teach you strategies for coping with stressful situations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A POSITION of importance isn't all it's cracked up to be. You may not have as much authority as you were promised. This makes it difficult for you to reach your objectives. Don't make another move until the problem is cleared up to your satisfaction or your reputation will suffer.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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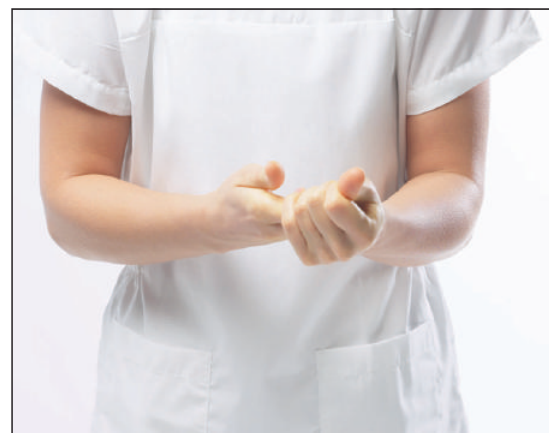
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No56

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EASY

1		9		7	8			4
6		3		1		5	7	9
		4			5			3
				4	6			
			2	9		1	7	
					8	2		
8	7			4				9
9	3	4		2		8		6
5			8	9		4		7

MEDIUM

	2				1			6
	3					9		
	8		4			2		
	6	8		3				
4			9		5			8
				6		1	2	
		7			3		4	
		6					8	
5			7					6

HARD

				9	5	7		2
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							6	
4		6	1					7
	3						7	3
	6							6
		3		5		4	2	
7		9	8	3				

CRYPTIC CLUES

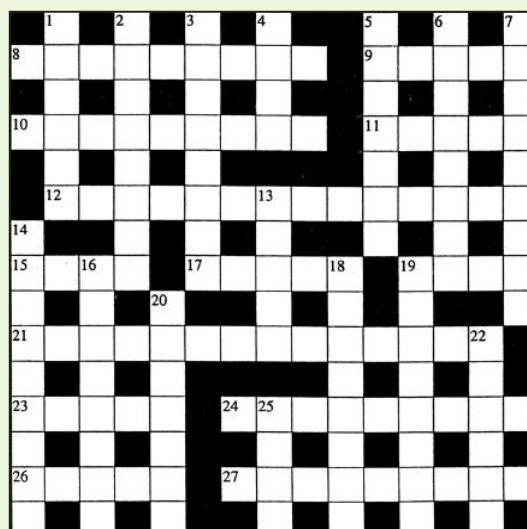
ACROSS

- 8 Go and explain about felling (9)
- 9 Still time for contest (5)
- 10 Barber's shop becoming expensive nightclub (4-5)
- 11 Writer had some feedback, Old English (5)
- 12 Introduce guests to those who are here (7,7)
- 15 Carry most of pole (4)
- 17 Cheat at cards? (5)
- 19 Interminably eerie means of river control (4)
- 21 What Dean is doing at the top of the page (7,7)
- 23 Resentment during unending card-game (5)
- 24 Finding dimensions of hat first is upsetting (9)
- 26 In the middle I thought it was port (5)
- 27 Workable type of joke? (9)

DOWN

- 1 Dorothy has little work serving (6)
- 2 Place with bit of carefully planned action (3-5)
- 3 Interpreter was on first page of book (8)
- 4 Unknown priest fails to start (4)
- 5 Furious woman baled me out (7)
- 6 Roast with pastry perhaps or brawn (8)
- 7 Ted's early development, portable balance (9)
- 13 Shirt in raised position on leg (5)
- 14 Heap of cattle kept in reserve? (9)
- 16 From square, hurried with Queensland's openers and the Italian who was calm (8)
- 18 Aptness about Pa's undoing bag (8)
- 19 Humming sound to mislead prodigy (5-3)
- 20 Chief in utter confusion in The Netherlands (7)
- 22 Using some oxygen I always was cheerful (6)
- 25 Insubstantial headless sprite (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 Long sweet root used in medicine (9)
- 9 Italy (anag.) (5)
- 10 Chief magistrate's office (9)
- 11 Roll of tobacco (5)
- 12 Sideboard (7,7)
- 15 Peruvian Indian (4)
- 17 Lover (5)
- 19 Circle of light (4)
- 21 Treat gently (6,4,4)
- 23 Porto (anag.) (5)
- 24 Lust or envy eg (6,3)
- 26 Stocking material (5)
- 27 Widened (9)

DOWN

- 1 Steal in transit (6)
- 2 Hot drink (3,2,3)
- 3 Gill (8)
- 4 Rabbit's tail (4)
- 5 Dummy pill (7)
- 6 Eastern US state (8)
- 7 A combining with water (9)
- 13 Rain-clouds (5)
- 14 Oppose (9)
- 16 Kiss and cuddle (8)
- 18 Snake (8)
- 19 With a compact and powerful build (8)
- 20 Slanting (7)
- 22 Banished (6)
- 25 Old Testament priest (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No55

EASY

2	5	1	4	9	3	6	7	8
9	7	6	2	1	8	5	3	4
8	3	4	7	6	5	9	1	2
5	9	2	8	3	6	7	4	1
6	8	7	9	4	1	3	2	5
1	4	3	5	7	2	8	9	6
4	6	9	1	8	7	2	5	3
3	1	5	6	2	9	4	8	7
7	2	8	3	5	4	1	6	9

MEDIUM

6	2	4	1	5	7	3	9	8
9	7	3	6	8	2	4	1	5
8	5	1	3	4	9	7	2	6
5	1	8	7	3	6	2	4	9
3	6	2	8	9	4	1	5	7
7	4	9	5	2	1	6	8	3
1	3	5	2	7	8	9	6	4
2	9	7	4	6	5	8	3	1
4	8	6	9	1	3	5	7	2

HARD

9	6	8	4	2	3	1	5	7
4	5	1	8	7	9	3	6	2
7	2	3	5	6	1	8	9	4
1	3	4	6	5	2	7	8	9
6	7	5	1	9	8	4	2	3
2	8	9	3	4	7	5	1	6
3	4	6	9	8	5	2	7	1
8	1	7	2	3	6	9	4	5
5	9	2	7	1	4	6	3	8

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No55

ACROSS: 1 Trial run 6 Whippy 9 Avouch
10 Tutelage 11 Plan of action 13 Isaac 14
Skintight 17 Gazetteer 19 Anglo 21 Jack-in-
the-box 24 Kilogram 25 Obsolet 26 Agency
27 Dumbshow. DOWN: 2 Rive 3 Aquaplane
4 Reheat 5 Network 6 Wet paint 7 Islet 8
Pigeonhole 12 Escalating 15 Imnoxious 16
Stingray 18 Exhumed 20 Abloom 22
Known 23 Oslo.

QUICK SOLUTION No56

25 Ezra. 19 Ophidian 19 Heavyset 20 Sloping 22 Exiled
Nimble 14 Withstand 16 Canoodle 18
Scot 5 Placebo 6 Virginia 7 Hydration 13
Troop 24 Deadly sin 25 Nylon 27 Broadened
Romeo 19 Halo 21 Handle with care 23
11 Cigar 12 Kitchen cabinet 15 Inca 17
ACROSS: 8 Liquor 9 Laffy 10 Mayoralty

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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Going green in the Caribbean sun

BY PETER WOODMAN

MOST people go to Antigua to get brown, but now the islanders are keen for visitors to go green.

So environmentally conscious has the island become that a new eco-friendly hotel has opened: the Verandah Resort and Spa on Long Bay. Its neat, low-rise buildings are surrounded by 30 unspoilt acres on the east coast, overlooking a powder-soft, sandy beach.

It was 10 years since we had last visited Antigua and after our comfortable Virgin Atlantic flight we were eager to renew our acquaintance as we touched down at the small and quiet VC Bird International Airport.

As so often happens abroad, our taxi driver was more tour guide than cabbie. He was proud to point out a beautiful cricket ground that has been created within the airport complex.

Heading across the island, we passed the main Test ground too, named in honour of the island's most famous player, Sir Vivian Richards.

Because Antigua is a small island, with just 76,000 people, everyone seems to know everyone else. The taxi driver knows Sir Viv. Our waiter went to school with fast bowler Andy Roberts, another giant of West Indies cricket in its golden era.

Our first impression was that everything had smartened up since we were last here. What we remembered as run-down shacks



ISLAND LIFE: The sagging US dollar has brought paradise a little closer, helped by Antigua's Verandah Resort and Spa

had been given a good lick of paint and looked rather cosy as holiday boltholes. Roads in the Caribbean are never going to get you anywhere fast, but even so we managed to reach the Verandah within an hour of touching down.

The resort has been created on the quieter, eastern side of the island. The Atlantic side of Caribbean islands is always the less-developed and windier coast, with most of the luxury resorts on the west.

Although it is certainly breezy at Verandah, the resort lies on a tranquil bay and is largely screened from the windy Atlantic, with its 200 white-painted, cottage-style villas glinting in the sunshine.

They have private balconies with sea views, and every air-conditioned bedroom has a king-size bed.

The Verandah has made a commitment to meet the highest environmental standards and management are quick to point out its green credentials.

These include the rational use of energy and

water, the use of biodegradable cleaning materials, supporting a carbon offset programme and buying sustainable goods from local producers.

Although perfect for couples who can happily laze around the pools and relax on the largely deserted beaches, the Verandah pitches itself as a family resort.

If you don't want to be pampered in the spa, the options for sporting action include windsurfing, snorkelling, kayaking and tennis.

There is a children's club that includes an activity centre built from locally-sourced timber. Uninhabited islands such as Green Island and Bird Island can be reached in a few minutes, too.

This summer, prices are likely to be particularly attractive due to the sagging US dollar, which has such a critical influence on the Caribbean economy.

Check out the prices and you might be pleasantly surprised to find how cheaply you can go green at this time of year, on one of the most beautiful islands in the world.

FACT FILE: ANTIGUA



Time difference	UK minus 5 hrs
Capital	St John's
Population	76,000
Language	English
Climate	Tropical
Religion	Christianity
Currency	East Caribbean dollar

Travel details

- Peter Woodman flew to Antigua as a guest of Virgin Atlantic Airways and stayed at The Verandah Resort & Spa (www.verandahresortandspa.com), a member of Elite Island Resorts.
- Virgin Holidays offers seven nights all-inclusive at Verandah Resort & Spa from £1,199 during June, incl return flights ex-Gatwick and transfers.
- Prices based on two adults sharing during June, and for October-December 2008.
- A special offer, running until December 20, offers a room upgrade, with first child under-16 staying and eating for free.
- Virgin reservations: 0844 5573 859/www.virgin-holidays.com.



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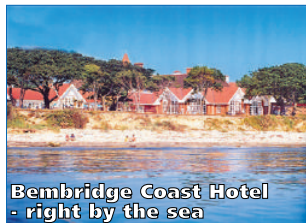
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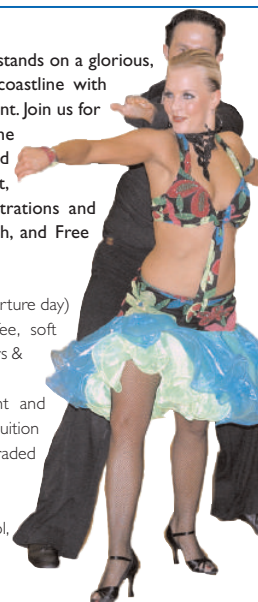
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PROPERTY NEWS

Hide Rover in the cupboard

HOME renovations could leave you out of pocket during the credit crunch, according to a survey.

Research carried out by Abbey found that previously profitable improvements, such as extensions and new kitchens, can leave you poorer in the current climate.

According to the study, the more laid out, the more lost, because the cost of the work will not be reflected in the sale price.

The average cost of an extension is £33,800, but it would add only about £13,500 to the property's price, according to the report.

Abbey recommends less expensive modifications to achieve the best price, including:

- Get the decorators in. The average cost of painting and decorating a home is £1,330, but the cosmetic improvement adds £3,557 to its value.
- Do it yourself. A study by Alliance and Leicester shows almost a third of homeowners are planning to save money by doing their own improvements.
- Clean is beautiful. Hire a steam cleaner to sort out carpets and upholstery.
- Maximise natural light. It is possible to shift difficult homes by removing net curtains.
- Get rid of clutter. Use eBay and Gumtree. Donate or swap stuff on freecycle.org. Charities such as the Salvation Army may also be able to pick up bulky items from your home.
- Hide the dog/children. Smelly pets and messy children can put buyers off.

Haven amid the global turmoil

PROPERTY is a better and safer investment than stocks and shares in the global economic slump, according to portfolio managers from the Young Group.

Experts analysing the market said in the last 55 years UK house prices have had an annual fall in just five, whereas the FTSE 100 index has never reached the peak of December 1999 in the years since.

The firm also pointed out property cannot lose its entire value overnight, unlike shares.

"Property investment is a tangible asset and easy to comprehend," said a spokesman.

Five golden rules can ensure you find the best mortgage deal

BY NICK AMES

SWITCHING to a better mortgage deal can save homeowners thousands of pounds and help ride out the economic downturn.

But be careful – arrangement fees can undermine the savings that can be made.

With the average arrangement fee now in excess of £1,000 it's crucial people compare the total cost and don't get sucked in by a low interest rate, according to consumer watchdog Which? Money.

A new survey found the interest rate was the main reason that one in four people who responded selected their current mortgage.

Experts say this approach can be misleading as hefty fees can increase the cost of a deal significantly.

Just one in five chose their mortgage because of the overall cost of the deal.

For the second year running, First Direct was rated best in the Which? Money mortgage lender satisfaction survey, with an overall customer satisfaction score of 90 per cent.

Which? Money's five golden rules for getting a good mortgage deal are:

- 1 Shop around. Don't choose a mortgage lender simply because you already bank with it.
- 2 Check the overall cost of the deal. Don't get sucked in by a low interest rate as it could have hefty fees attached.
- 3 Avoid paying the standard rate. Consider switching to avoid reverting to the standard variable rate when your deal ends.
- 4 Do your homework. Some of the best deals are not available through advisers, so do your own research as well.
- 5 Don't buy insurance from your lender. Most lenders aren't Which? Money Best Buy home insurers, so shop around to save money.



WRITE IDEA: Doing your research before signing on the dotted line can save hundreds in mortgage costs

Martyn Hocking, the editor of Which? Money, said: "The cost of mortgages has soared in the last couple of years, but a lot of the focus has been on what's happening with interest rates when in fact it's the total cost of the deal that's important.

"Arrangement fees are now more than £1,000 on average and sometimes much high-

er, which means that an eye-catching interest rate can be misleading.

"Whatever you do, don't take the lazy option of simply taking out a deal with your bank or staying on your lender's standard variable rate. If you shop around and do your homework, you could cut your mortgage costs by hundreds of pounds."

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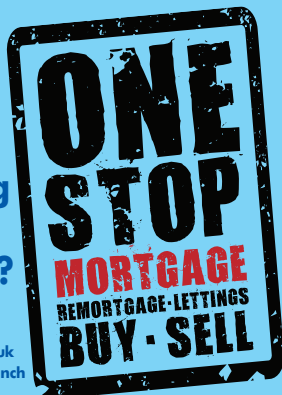
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WOMEN seeking men

LIVELY female, 26, 5'2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 TXT

TALL, attractive, good hearted African female, 28y, old, enjoys films, food and cuddles, with a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 TXT

CONSIDERATE, honest female, 28, 5'4, fair hair, single Mum, likes staying active, cinema, seeks genuine, honest, fun, caring, outgoing male for love. Box 444511 TXT

PETITE, dark-haired, blue-eyed female, 30, fun and friendly, bright and bubbly. Bored of being single, looking for a lovely man to take me out. Box 895349 TXT

EASYGOING female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTm loving, caring while male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214

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32, 5'9, brown hair, curly figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLTm nice, kind. Box 439402 TXT

SLIM lady, 31, shoulder-length dark hair, hazel eyes, loves having fun and meeting new people. Mark, the pub owner, please call and leave contact details. Box 433131 TXT

PRETTY black female, 31, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778 TXT

IM Ruth, hard-working, kind, caring, 33, brown hair, brown eyes, nice smile, seeking down-to-earth and loving male to get to know and see what happens. Box 901072 TXT

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

SINGLE mum of 2, 32, WLTm someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Ryan from Whitehall, please call and leave contact details. Box 406670 TXT

NICE, fun-loving single mum, 32, 5'7", brown hair, like cinema, WLTm caring male for friendship, maybe leading to LTR. East Sussex. Box 428116 TXT

CURVY brunette, 33, 5'4, single mum, with a special man, divorced or separated, to share the nice things in life. Box 443255 TXT

CURVY brunette, 34, hazel eyes, single mum, looking for that special passionate and caring man to share good times with. Box 443256 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Turbridge Wells. Box 308734 TXT

ATTRACTIVE 39y old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, caring male, for friendship/relationship. Box 501693 TXT

UNIQUE, bored, professional Turbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, single, solvent, professional while male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 TXT

CARING sensitive female, 39, looking for fun, friendly, outgoing male who likes astrology, walks, cinema, eating in/out and more. Box 444498 TXT

SOCIABLE female, 41, attractive & slim, looking for a honest, chilled guy who has time to spare and share! Box 887484 TXT

HELLO, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5'11, enjoys dancing, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796 TXT

DIVORCED mum of two, 41, 5'4, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes eating out, bowling, cinema, nights out, seeking like-minded male for love. Box 887416 TXT

GENUINE female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meats out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 TXT

BUBBLY 40y old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, with a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 TXT

FUN-LOVING curvaceous 42yr old, sports loving, slightly mad, lots of love to give, suffering from neglect. Needing TLC and hugs. Can you help? Box 887854 TXT

ATTRACTIVE young looking 42yr old, size 12, genuine, honest, caring, seeking male who enjoys music, theatre, cinema, for loving relationship. Box 444681 TXT

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HONEST caring lady, 43, single mum, medium build, blue-green eyes, streaked blonde hair, likes swimming, reading, cooking, wine, driving, WLTm fun-loving male for love. Box 444211 TXT

PROFESSIONAL female, 43, enjoys dancing, walking, reading and cooking, WLTm an intelligent professional male, who can hold a good conversation, for a relationship. Box 444282 TXT

HARD-WORKING female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wastes! Box 908053 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5'4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428665 TXT

CUTE, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 TXT

BRIGHT bubbly curvy female, 38, a teacher, loves reading, travelling, swimming, cooking, WLTm adventurous male to share life and hopefully more with. Turbridge Wells. Box 444628 TXT

NURSE, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5'8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes socialising, good fun and swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male. Box 431557 TXT

LOVELY single mum, 38, 5'4, blonde, slim build, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTm similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 372889 TXT

DEAL-BASED lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5'10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430894 TXT

HARD WORKING single mum, young 44yr old, 5'8, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WLTm a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751 TXT

BUBBLY blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love... Box 889162 TXT

SPIRITUAL, 44yr old female, enjoys dancing, cooking and walks on the beach, WLTm a warm, loving and caring male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 444803 TXT

HI I'm 44, 5'8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

COMPASSIONATE attractive female, 45, 5'9, big build, red hair, blue eyes, n's, enjoys good food, party, pub, cinema and weekends away, WLTm a similar male. Box 444743

EASYGOING female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, solo cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, South African origin, tall female, 45, long dark hair, seeking caring male, for friendship and hopefully love... Box 444232 TXT

HI I'm 45, 5'8, largeish build, blue eyes, non-smoker/driver, devoted Mum, seeking male to share life with, walks, beaches and more. Canterbury. Box 444692

AFRICAN descent female, 45, 5'6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTm gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443928 TXT

FUN outworn person, 45, kind, cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5'7, dark brown hair/eyes, young, seeking nice guy to start off as friends. Box 442935 TXT

44YR old female, blonde hair, 5'11, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with. Box 436810 TXT

HONEST & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 46, dark brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTm male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 TXT

CARING cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and LTR. Seaford. Box 444666 TXT

CARING, honest 46y old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead, likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLTm male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 TXT

SLIM, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no lies, loves socialising, eating out etc, GSOH, seeking trust-worthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 TXT

HI, I'm Laura, 47, friendly, honest, love motor-biking, WLTm gentleman interested in bikes, walks, holidays, the countryside, museums, castles, and perhaps love. Box 440397 TXT

CHEERFUL, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5'2, slim build, looking to find an honest, loyal man that can make me happy again. Box 887347

PETITE, brunette, bubbly, friendly, 48yrs old, 5'2, blonde hair, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us. Box 895962 TXT

49YR female, medium build, blonde, short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wine, dining, love and laughter, honest, genuine and loving. Box 438954 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, hard working brunette, 52, 5'3, blue eyes, enjoys crazy nights out and cosy nights in, WLTm female, 25-30, for friendship, perhaps relationship. Brighton. Box 441718 TXT

INDEPENDENT, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WLTm a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

VERY young looking female, 53, 5'6, slim, hazel eyes, wicked GSOH, loves the coast, sea, country, socialising, seeking fun-loving man for laughter and love. Box 444138 TXT

HI, I'm Sue, 53, 5'11, size 14, n's, enjoys walks and meals in/out, seeking a male to find happiness with. Box 443934 TXT

CURVY & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5'7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642

HI, I'm a kind female, 52, slim, 5'3, dark hair, I like music, dancing, reading, coast, country, socialising, seeking kind, genuine man, 45-60, for LTR. Box 443032

SUE, 55yr old, 5'4, green eyes, petite, enjoys dancing, cinema, reading and swimming, with a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and more. Box 443309 TXT

AFFECTIONATE tactile bubbly woman, young 56, 5'7", blonde, curly, looking for lasting relationship with 50-58 year old loving man. Box 888680

OUT going, friendly woman, 56, GSOH, loves country walks, like doing fun things, having a laugh, walks, nights in and out, holidays etc. Box 444546 TXT

HI there, kind-hearted 57y old sincere lady, non-smoker, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship first and to make me laugh. Box 440637 TXT

HONEST & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 TXT

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MATURE female, 60, 5'8, slim, ash blonde hair, enjoys eating out and going to the cinema, WLTm a trustworthy and kind male with gosh. Box 444896 TXT

HAPPY GO-LUCKY lady with nice smile, 62, 5'3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoys dancing, walking, eating in/out, animals, seeking loving man for friendship/long term relationship. Box 443171 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, gregarious, fun-loving non-smoker, 63, 5'11, very active, loves walks, the countryside, POI, animals, seeking similar male, caring, tactile, GSOH, to be my soulmate. Box 443644 TXT

WIDOW, 65, 5'3, fair hair, slim-medium build, enjoys dancing, sports, badminton, table-tennis, walking, theatre, eating out, WLTm similar male, honest, caring, to be my soulmate. Box 443671 TXT

LOVELY female, 65, 5'2, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763

Women seeking women

GENUINE, compassionate female, 21yr old, long dark hair, blue eyes, enjoys going out, keeping fit and music, with a girl to have fun with. Box 442069 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, medium-build female, 23, 5'3, blue eyes, enjoys crazy nights out and cosy nights in, WLTm female, 25-30, for friendship, perhaps relationship. Brighton. Box 441718 TXT

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FUN-LOVING female, 28, in the Canterbury area, short brown hair, brown eyes, looking to meet fun-loving females for potential relationship. Box 889771 TXT

40-YEAR-OLD gay woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people and places, muddy walks and cosy nights in, WLTm gay woman for friendship/relationship. Seaford. Box 894541 TXT

52YRS, 5'6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 TXT

PHIL, 43, 5'8, athletic build, good appearance, easygoing, nice guy, loyal, caring, seeking similar female 28-42 to find love with! Hastings. Box 443988 TXT

VERY easygoing, laid-back male, 43, 5'8, slim, hard-working, likes smoking, socialising, eating out, evenings in, seeking loving, caring, honest, sincere female for love. Box 443719 TXT

CARING, loving male, 43, average looks, self-employed, enjoys wild life, sci-fi and gardening, WLTm a petite female, 30-50, for a LTR. Box 441762 TXT

SPORTY male, 43, 5'8, average looks, enjoys most things in life, WLTm a slim female for friendship and love. Box 444738 TXT

GENUINE male, 43, 6'4, slim build, enjoys bowling, cinema, going to the pub and gardening, WLTm similar lady for a long-term relationship. Box 441762 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim male, 43yr old, 5'10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, with a mature lady for a committed long-term relationship. Margate. Box 441762 TXT

DOWN-TO-EARTH loveable guy, 30, 5'8, stocky, blonde hair/blue eyes, likes the finer things in life, going out, eating in, pub, WLTm genuine girl for love. Box 441943 TXT

32YR old male, loves cooking, sport and going to the gym, WLTm a female to spend time with and see how things go. Box 444814 TXT

HI, I'm Mark, 32yrs, brown hair & eyes, muscular build, blue eyes, I'm easy-going, for a laugh type of guy, looking for Mrs Right. Box 900019 TXT

HI, I'm big Mike, 35, 6'8, blue eyes, gosh, looking for a nice, bubbly female, 35-45, with great personality and gosh for friendship/love. Box 444615 TXT

CIVIL, 36yrs, 3'8, caring, sharing, GSOH, brown eyes, short brown hair, 5'11, likes the gym, pubs, travelling, reading, cooking, music, seeking male with GSOH. Box 444450 TXT

SLIM, fit and fun builder, 36, 5'10, enjoys snow boarding, WLTm a female to have some fun with and see where the road takes us. Box 444723 TXT

SELF-EMPLOYED male, 37, 6'11, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, enjoy the gym, pubs, clubs, restaurants, WLTm female for long term relationship. Box 443095 TXT

IM Stuart, 36, 6'8, short dark hair, stocky build, love squash, badminton, swimming, the gym, theatre, seeking a fun-loving, nice lady for loyalty and love. Box 437106 TXT

HONEST, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6'1, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTm like-minded, genuine female, Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 434040 TXT

LEE, driver, 36y old, 6'3, dark hair, brown eyes, likes wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, with a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 36, short spiky brown hair, likes dancing, socialising, films, with nice, slim, honest female, 30-42, for a relationship. Maidstone. Box 401597 TXT

ATHLETIC, 36, 5'8, brown hair & eyes, likes the gym, stays in shape, into salsa, wine/dining, the arts/cinema, walks. WLTm slim female 40-45. Box 444144 TXT

PLEASANT male, 39, 6'11, tall, medium build, brown hair, enjoys rock music and socialising, with a genuine lady for a fun friendship, maybe romance later. Box 441326 TXT

HI, I'm a down-to-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves out doors, sports, beach walks etc, with an outgoing female for good times. Box 889042 TXT

CARING single dad, 41, 5'10", average build, young-looking, WLTm lady for friendship evenings out, maybe romance. Box 894541 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, fun-loving male, 42, 5'9, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights out with a can of coke, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762 TXT

IM 42, medium build, 5'10, not fat! lots of tattoos, blue eyes, shaved head, seeking a female 20-50 to start again and find love with. Box 440021 TXT

42YR old male, 5'7, blue eyes, enjoys cinema, walking, swimming and rock music, seeking a female to rescue and be happy with. East Sussex. Box 443933 TXT

PHIL, 43, 5'8, athletic build, good appearance, easygoing, nice guy, loyal, caring, seeking similar female 28-42 to find love with! Hastings. Box 443988 TXT

VERY easygoing, laid-back male, 43, 5'8, slim, hard-working, likes smoking, socialising, eating out, evenings in, seeking loving, caring, honest, sincere female for love. Box 443719 TXT

CARING, loving male, 43, average looks, self-employed, enjoys wild life, sci-fi and gardening, WLTm a petite female, 30-50, for a LTR. Box 441762 TXT

SPORTY male, 43, 5'8, average looks, enjoys most things in life, WLTm a slim female for friendship and love. Box 444738 TXT

GENUINE male, 43, 6'4, slim build, enjoys bowling, cinema, going to the pub and gardening, WLTm similar lady for a long-term relationship. Box 441762 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim male, 43yr old, 5'10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, with a mature lady for a committed long-term relationship. Margate. Box 441762 TXT

ANDY, single male, 40yrs old, 6'1, looking for female, 30-41 yrs old, for fun times, maybe more. Box 887086

GOOD guy, 44, 5'8, medium build, non-smoker, big brown eyes/dark hair, I work unsociable hours but would love to make time for the right person. Box 444718 TXT

MUSCULAR male, 44, 5'9, blue eyes, enjoy keeping fit and good company, WLTm a female, 32-44, for fun and friendship, maybe more. Box 443878 TXT

ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks honest, warm, trusting female. Box 440528 TXT

PROFESSIONAL male, 45, own home/car, enjoys cinema, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 428602 TXT

HI there, 45yr old male, 6'1, looking for a relationship with the right person, gosh essential, romantic times guaranteed. Box 887474

SLIM, fit, loving and very caring male, 45, enjoys rock, swimming and going out for walks, WLTm an honest and considerate female for a LTR. Box 444558

SCORPIO male, 46, 6'3, German, brown hair, brown eyes, seeking pretty woman with sex appeal for romantic times and perhaps lasting love. Box 444673 TXT

WHITE male, 46, 5'8, average, n's, loves a laugh, enjoys theme parks, concerts, romantic walks, with a female to be happy with. Koss no problem. Box 444558

SEAFOAD male, 46, 5'10, 5'10, green eyes, light brown hair, attractive, GSOH, interested in music, bowling, tennis, sports, pubs, meals, socialising, WLTm like-minded lady for love. Box 444055 TXT

KIND, caring and considerate gentleman, 46, 5'10, medium build, likes animal and motorcycles, WLTm a lady to be my soulmate. Box 444747 TXT

MOTORS NEWS



Italian stars join to light up Lipscomb Alfa night

KENT'S Lipscomb motor group fielded two top Italian stars for the opening of its new Alfa Romeo dealership in Maidstone on Thursday. And it was hard to decide the top billing: quick-quipping Italian star chef Aldo Zilli or the rare and seductive Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione supercar (pictured).

Nearly 200 people attended Lipscomb's state-of-the-art site at Forstal Lane, Aylesford, where Aldo cooked two mouth-watering dishes live served with perfect wine accompaniments – plus a diet of witticisms and banter. It is possible that Kent has never before seen such an entertaining car brand launch.



Ultra-green Fiesta all set to be a best-seller

FORD'S latest Fiesta is about to hit Kent showrooms and will not only be another best-seller, but possibly one of the most influential cars seen for some time.

This sophisticated supermini arrives as the market embraces the drive to downsize and adopt more eco-friendly motoring – the ultra-green ECOnetic version (from £11,845) will average well over 70+mpg and emit a road tax exempt 98gm/km of CO2. Insurance ratings/costs and projected second-hand values across the line-up (from £8,695) are also much improved against current Fiestas.



Range Rover's appeal is clear in Black & White

BARRETT'S Land Rover in Ashford has created a £50,490 Black & White 'launch edition' to highlight changes for the 2009 Range Rover Sport line-up (from £38,495).

Dealer principal Mark Nicholas said: "As the name suggests, the Black & White makes a real visual statement with its Alaska white paintwork and darkened privacy glass. It sits on 20-inch Shadow chrome alloy wheels and inside door inserts which have been specified with contrasting ivory stitching."



A PURR-FECT EXAMPLE: There are precious few director-level rivals to Jaguar's 2.7-litre V6 turbodiesel XJ, which averages 35mpg and offers a luxurious, comfortable ride

A big answer to the big ask: should I downsize?

THOUGH Jaguar became famous for pace-setting technology as much as power, it was pretty ponderous during the Nineties and early Noughties.

But it did get one thing right, for the latest XJ might look rooted in a heritage from the original 1960s XJ6 Series 1, but its lightweight aluminium body and advanced 2.7-litre diesel option have suddenly made it the right car for the right time – one when even the well heeled need to mind the pennies and their eco manners.

Okay, Jaguar's timing came off late on in the current XJ's career, but the big Jag remains a class act – and one that could stave off pressure to downsize.

Fact is that there are precious few director-level rivals to challenge our 2.7-litre V6 turbodiesel version's average 35mpg.

And while Jaguar's adherence to traditional style – a bad habit broken by the dashing new mid-range XF – has cost sales of late, a return to quality, reliability and durability is much welcomed.

ROAD TEST JAGUAR XJ

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

The leather, walnut and deep carpet looks and feels top-notch and the seats are comfortable with full electric adjustment as standard on the front pair – specification is generous across the range.

It really is a car that imparts a feel-good factor and, with decent fuel consumption, keeps you at peace with your conscience even if diesel versions start at £45,500 – some £2,000 more than the 3.0-litre petrol entry model.

Our car was also the stretched 'L' or limo diesel version in upmarket Sovereign trim, which costs £53,300 and makes you feel as though you should dawdle and revel in its luxury, style and sumptuous ride.

Nevertheless, the XJ upholds the finest tradition of Jaguar sporting saloons: it will purr when treated gently and growl when kicked and that 2.7-litre diesel sounds like a petrol unit in either mood.

A lighter body and quick steering make this large car deceptively quick on its feet on a winding road too, with the 'J-Gate' gearbox selector allowing manual selection of the six gears, though you soon get used to leaving it in well-organised fully 'auto'.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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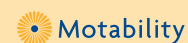
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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325 and Captiva £400). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £199 for Matiz, £299 on Captiva. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Offers end 8th October 2008.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km). Matiz 0.8 S: Urban - 40.9 (6.9), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 54.3 (5.2), CO2 emissions 119g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LTX 7 seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 41.5 (6.8), Combined - 37.1 (7.6), CO2 emissions 197g/km.

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

COMPACT EXECUTIVE SALOONS

carsforKent.co.uk

GERMAN marques dominate the compact executive saloon market – BMW's 3-Series is a top-ten seller in the UK. But there are good desirable and affordable alternatives for used car buyers seeking a little extra class and comfort without 'going German'. Opt for models that have the most extra goodies on them, because the premium you pay for these will be far less than the original private or company buyer had paid; you could get sat nav and leather, for instance, for a few hundred pounds rather than several thousand.

LEXUS IS200



TOYOTA'S luxury arm used the BMW 3-Series as a benchmark for its first compact exec and hit the mark for style, value and driver appeal – there was even an estate, but sales were hamstrung by the lack of a diesel until the Mk II arrived in 2005. The original IS200 was also underpowered yet juicy, while the rarer IS300 had the grunt, but was even thirstier. However, the IS-Series makes a great used buy with lots of kit and presence.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

JAGUAR X-TYPE



THIS brave attempt to attack dominant German models was affected by taunts that it was a re-worked Ford Mondeo. But this is naive and silly when the X-Type handles so well in both front and four-wheel drive formats. It is also affordable and has built a reputation for reliability, comfort and driver appeal. There is even an estate that is attractive and practical though it does command a premium second-hand. Best of all, there are two quality diesel options.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SAAB 9-3



THERE is a lot of Vauxhall underneath the Saab, but there is nothing wrong with that in terms of reliability and durability, especially when clothed by a low slung sleeky body that deserves the 9-3's 'Sport Saloon' tag. Where the Swede scores on the used market is through sporty yet frugal diesel options, faltering prices for older examples and greater availability of the rakish Sportwagon estate that arrived in 2005 to make up for the lack of a hatchback model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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0% FINANCE SKODA CARS

- 2008, SKODA FABIA 1.9 TDI PD SPORT 5-Dr Hatchback, Manual, Diesel, Finished in Red with a Black Cloth interior.....£10,495**
- 2005, SKODA FABIA 1.9 TD VRS 5-Dr Hatchback, Manual, Diesel, Finished in Diamond/Grey/black Sports Cross-tuck interior.....£8,495**
- 2008, SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Manual, Diesel, Finished in Tangerine Orange Met with a Black Cloth interior.....£9,995**
- 2007, SKODA ROOMSTER 1.4TDI PD (80BHP) 2-5-Dr MPV, Manual, Diesel, Finished in Satin Grey with a Black Wave Cloth interior.....£10,495**
- 2007, SKODA ROOMSTER 1.4TDI PD (70BHP) 1-5-Dr MPV, manual, Diesel, Satin Grey with a Black/blue Stone Cloth interior.....£8,995**

Approved Used Skoda

- 2008, SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 16V (85BHP) 5-Dr Estate, Blue, AC, ABS, PAS, radio/cd/mp3 player, 1,500 miles.....£10,495**
- 2008, SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTP (70 BHP) SPORT 5-Dr Hatchback, Manual, Petrol, Finished in Red with a Black Cloth interior.....£9,295**
- 2005, SKODA FABIA 1.9 TD VRS 5-Dr Hatchback, Diamond Silver, grey/black sports cross-tuck, a/c, alloys, cd, immobiliser, 28273 miles.....£8,495**
- 2006, SKODA FABIA 1.4 ELEGANCE 5-Dr Estate, Petrol, Met Silver with Black Interior, Cruise Control, Tinted Glass.....£7,995**
- 2007, SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Finished in Silver with a Black Stone Cloth interior.....£6,995**
- 2007, SKODA FABIA 3 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Finished in metallic beige with Black Cloth interior, 8,700 miles, a/c, front fogs.....£9,495**
- 2004, SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) CLASSIC 5-Dr Hatchback, Finished in Metallic admiral blue with a Black Cloth interior.....£4,995**
- 2003, SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTP CLASSIC 5-Dr Estate, Diamond Silver with Black Cloth interior, a/c, ABS PAS 33500 miles.....£4,995**
- 2008, SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTP 12V (70BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Metallic Black, black cloth, abs, a/c, PAS, trip comp, 6 miles.....£8,995**
- 2008, SKODA ROOMSTER 1.4TDI PD (80BHP) 2-5-Dr MPV, Met Blue, Grey/Black cloth, abs, airbags, a/c, PAS, trip comp, 3500 miles.....£10,495**
- 2004, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9TDI PD ELEGANCE 5-Dr Hatchback, Met Beige, abs, climate control, PAS, rear parking aid, 43750 miles.....£9,395**
- 2006, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 FSI AMBIENTE 5-Dr Hatchback Finished in Black Magic with a Black Onyx Cloth interior, 20,000 miles.....£9,495**
- 2006, SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI PD ELEGANCE 5-Dr Hatchback, Deisel, climate control, headlamp wash, iPod preparation, 33,500 miles.....£10,995**
- 2008, SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 T FSI VRS 5-Dr Hatchback, Manual, 200 BHP, Race Blue Met 18" alloys, Xenon lights, top spec, 2100 miles.....£16,495**
- 2004, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI PD ELEGANCE Manual Diesel, Air Con, PAS, Met Sahara Beige with black Cloth interior.....£8,995**
- 2002, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI PD AMBIENTE 5-DR HATCHBACK, Auto, Diesel, Met Graphite Grey with Black Cloth Interior.....£3,995**
- 2005, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI PD AMBIENTE 5-DR HATCHBACK, Manual, Diesel, Met Brilliant Silver with Grey Cloth Interior.....£6,995**
- 2007, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Estate, Satin Grey, 22700 miles *, Manual, Diesel.....£12,995**

0% FINANCE NON-SKODA CARS

- 2006, TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 VVT-i COLOUR COLLECTION 5-Dr, Manual, Petrol, Neptune Blue with a Black Deemster Cloth interior.....£8,495**
- 2006, VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI 16V EXCLUSIVE (150 PS) 5-Dr Hatchback, Manual, Diesel, Royal Blue, Black Scala interior.....£8,495**
- 2005, CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 HDI EXCLUSIVE 5-Door MPV, Manual, Diesel, Blue with a Black Velours Corinthien Blue interior.....£7,495**
- 2004, KIA SEDONA 2.9 CRDI LE MPV AUTOMATIC, Blue, ABS, PAS, c/i, e/w, roof rails, electric 5 heated door mirrors, 43,500 miles.....£7,495**
- 2003, SEAT ALHAMBRA 2L 7 Seat 5 Door MPV, Met Silver with Grey Cloth interior, Manual, Air Con.....£6,990**
- 2004, VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 16V DIRECT DESIGN, silver, automatic, full electric pack, fsh.....£5,495**

Other Makes

- 2006, MERCEDES-BENZ B-CLASS 1.7 B179SE AUTOTRONIC 5-Dr Hatchback, Met Silver, Black Velour, a/c, PAS, 19850 miles.....£12,995**
- 2002, FORD RANGER 2.5TD XLT DOUBLE CAB 4X4 PICK UP, Met Blue with Black Leather interior, Automatic.....£5,495 +VAT**
- 2005, FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME LIMITED EDITION 3-Dr Hatchback, Manual, Petrol, Met Green with Black Cloth Interior.....£5,495**
- 2002, CITROEN C5 2.0 HDI LX 5-Door Hatchback, Manual, Diesel, Met Icelandic Green with Grey Cloth Interior.....£3,995**
- 2003, FORD KA 1.3 3-Door Hatchback, Panther Black with Grey Cloth interior, ABS, immobiliser, PAS, 22790 miles.....£3,795**



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ALFA ROMEO

146 TI, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. this car is a 2 owner from new with full service history mainly main dealer. A test drive is welcome as well as any inspection, px is available against this car. red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtney Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, SE 5dr, gk02 oec, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, electric front windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, traction control, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, blue, 58000 miles, £5495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9 TDI SE 5dr, 123101127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, climate control, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, silver, 32029 miles, £11999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 316i SE, 6063079, front fog lamps, remote central locking, alarm, rear headrests, centre armrest, full leather, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric windows, electric mirrors, traction control, air conditioning, climate control, radio cassette, multi-disc cd player, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, trip computer, cruise control, abs, power steering, auto-dip rearview, alloy wheels, blue, 64700 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520i auto, 1g52kkk, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, 85000 miles, £7995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, LTIX 2.0, gk80nw, finished in denim blue with black onw, front fog, 4000 miles, £22995, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Turbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, S 1.2, g157qxx, finished in sports blue with black interior, blue, 1000 miles, £6295, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Turbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN berlingo 800, 04 2005, 1.9 l x sold with car warranty side door white pas 43,000 miles fsh lined, £14350, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN berlingo 800, 02 2005, 1.9 l x sold with car warranty side door white elec window white 49,000 miles fsh bulkhead lined, £4600, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Desire 1.6 16v Man, head restraints, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, abs, child locks, twin air bags, electric front windows, radio cassette, steering wheel audio controls, red, 20000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte D, ek55 vge, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, radio cassette, twin air bags, abs, cloth upholstery, silver, 28100 miles, £5695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 600 D Enterprise (LEZ COMF), 1m0drc, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, of player, steering wheel audio controls, ply-lined, tel, 01795 430295, white, 18000 miles, £2495, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 52 2002, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin airbags, air conditioning, of radio system, stereo controls on steering wheel, 5 speed gearbox, rear picnic table, three adjustable rear seats, cotton shopping trolley basket, parcel shelf, front fog lamps, one owner, service history, metallic light purple, miles, £5995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

DAEWOO nubira 4 door saloon, 06 2000, 1.6 p se met July 09, 0 miles, £500, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

TACUMA, CDD 1998cc 5 door, 2002, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric windows, net blue, 85000 miles, £2495, Northwood Road Motor Company, Margate, 01843 290890 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

COPEN, Activetrio 1.3, 08/2008, red leather interior pas remote central locking rear spoiler dual exhaust pipes alloy auto electric windows rear wind deflector front fog lights sports seats, grey metallic, delivery miles, £12370, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MATERIA, 08/2008, alloy wheels twin exhaust tinted glass a/con remote reverse park sensors & much more!!!, dark red mica, delivery miles miles, £11,495, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

SIRION, 1.0 S Hatchback 5Dr, 08/2008, abs pas remote c/locking radio/cd player electric windows a/c, twin air bags, side air bags, alloy wheels, silver, 500 miles, £8045, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

SIRION, SE 5dr, ex07fll, alarm, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, electric front windows, aluminium silver, 14000 miles, £6995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

TERIOS, 1.5 SX Station Wagon 5Dr, 08/2008, 16" alloy wheels, heated/electric door mirrors radio/cd player a/con electric windows front fog lights reverse parking sensor, remote c/locking pas abs, metallic blue, delivery miles miles, £14,195, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

TERIOS, 1.3 Sport Station Wagon 5d 1238cc, 05 2005, remote central locking, a.b.s., electric windows, electric mirrors, power assisted steering, twin sr airbags, of radio system, air conditioning, 5 speed gearbox, £5795, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

FIAT

FIAT DUCATO 14 2.8 JTD, 02 2002, 14 seats minibus rolhili tri axle 40.000 miles sold with car warranty tallitair air suspension ex council ideal camper conversion, £6995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD

FORD CONNCT T220, 12 2004, 1.8 tddi 75 ps swb white ply lined 80.000 miles fsh sold with car warranty, £3560, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 Zetec, 1998, central locking front electric windows drivers airbag power steering immobiliser alloy wheels, moonstid silver, £1000 miles, £2000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 LX 5dr, 06/09/2006, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser cruise control electric windows, silver, 24607 miles, £9900, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, I-VTEC SE Executive Auto, 6184079, rear headrests, full leather, remote central locking, alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric seats, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, air conditioning, climate control, twin air bags, cruise control, electric sunroof, colour satnav, alloy wheels, silver, 47400 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ACCORD, Type-V 6186079, front fog lamps, remote central locking, alarm, full leather, electric seats, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, rear headrests, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, radio cassette, twin air bags, electric sunroof, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, green, 54600 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

COUPE, SE, 04, excellent car, tax until e/o feb 09, met expires 07/09/2009, 3 door coupe special edition, ocean blue, petrol, manual, abs, air conditioning, alarm, alloy wheels, cruise control, power windows, 32,000 miles, full service history, reg sept 04 (54 plate), owned since new, genuine reason for sale. for further details please email keith@kelthpestell.co.uk or telephone 01634 263603, ocean blue, £6100, Gillingham Kent, 01634263603 (PRIVATE)

GETZ, - 1.3 Gsi 5dr Auto, 1337649, hyundai getz 1.3 gsi 5dr auto £5, 695.00, body style hatchback, there are a variety of warranty options which our sales team will be happy to explain to you. silver, £5695, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Turbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

ISUZU

RODEO, Denver Max TD Pu 4x4 Dcb, bk57wbu, alarm, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, 15" alloys, aluminium silver, 87000 miles, £2599, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RODEO, Denver Max TD Pu 4x4 Dcb, bk57wbu, alarm, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote central locking, centre armrest, adjustable steering column, power steering, satellite navigation, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, 3-person rear seat, full leather, 18" alloys, 4x4, aluminium silver, 15620 miles, £12500, Van Zone Turbridge Wells, Turbridge Wells, 0844 8446528 (TRADE)

RODEO, Denver Max TD Pu 4x4 Dcb, bk57wbu, alarm, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, full leather, 18" alloys, 4x4, aluminium silver, 9890 miles, £15950, Van Zone Turbridge Wells, Turbridge Wells, 0844 8446528 (TRADE)

RODEO, Denver Max TD Pu 4x4 Dcb, ve56Nkg, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, 16" alloys, 4x4, maroon, 12110 miles, £12800, Van Zone Turbridge Wells, Turbridge Wells, 0844 8446523 (TRADE)

KIA

MAGENTS, Le 16v, ex4oyon, anti-theft system, immobiliser, rear headrests, rear armrest, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, black, 25000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 TD5 County Station Wagon, 10814054, air conditioning, abs, traction control, remote alarm, power steering, rear wash/wipe, side steps, sunroof, cd player, alloy wheels, 4x4, high specification vehicle, road tax on this vehicle is £210 per year metallic blue, 41000 miles, £12495, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01850 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 110 TD5 County Station Wagon, 10830054, remote alarm, sunroof, radio cassette, power steering, tow pack, 4x4, 10 seater, road tax is £210 per year. price is £12,985 + £2,274.13 vat- £15, 269.13 total, red, 29000 miles, £12995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01850 890333 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS300, GS 300 SE, 503461, remote alarm, central locking, full leather, electric seats, air bag, abs, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, climate control, electric windows, electric mirrors, 15" alloys, blue, 130000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

GS300, GS 300 SE, au52kfl, remote central locking, full leather, electric seats, rear armrest, power steering, cruise control, metallic paintwork, electric windows, electric mirrors, climate control, sunroof, cd player, 16" alloys, aluminium silver, 90000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, GT 5dr, v674dno, remote central locking, radio cassette, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, 15" alloys, aluminium silver, 87000 miles, £2599, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

323, GXi D 5dr, ow52hel, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, 15" alloys, aluminium silver, 87000 miles, £2599, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

B-CLASS, 1.5 B150 SE Hatchback 5d 1498cc, 06, 17" 7-spoke alloys, sport pack, climate, cd, 1 owner, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, more b150 in stock, cosmo black with black half leather, under 18,000 miles, £12995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, 2.1TD C220 CDI Coupe 2d 2148cc auto, 05, evolution pack, 17" alloys, climate, cruise, cd, 1 owner, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, more c220cdi coupe in stock, brilliant silver with two tone grey leather twin, under 44,000 miles, £12995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

E-CLASS, 2.1TD E220 CDI Elegance Saloon 4d 2148cc auto, 54, climate, cd changer, twin spoke alloys, our demo, please view our website to see our full stock, more e220cdi saloon in stock, cubanite silver with black leather, under 49,000 miles, £16995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

CI-CAR, 5dr Auto, 58, 20 miles, £3999, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Warrior Leather D/Cab, gk07yvb, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, electric mirrors, electric windows, leather upholstery, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control, black, 12800 miles, £13994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, 5 Dr Auto, ef04 gfv, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric front windows, cd player, radio, abs, twin air bags, power steering, blue/silver, 46000 miles, £3695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

KUBISTAR, SE DDI 70, lc55xav, remote central locking, immobiliser, power steering, electric windows, cd player, ply-lined, tel, 01795 430295, aluminium silver, 45000 miles, £3795, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

BOKER 350, 06 2005, 2.8hdi, sold with car warranty 32 mpg ix lwb hix tow fwd elec pack white 55.000 miles fsh, £5995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, 3.6 Carrera 2 Tiptronic S Coupe 2d 3596cc auto (2002), 07 19" turbo alloys, sat nav, rear parktronic, sports chrono pack, sports seats, sports suspension, sports exhaust, vts tracking system, rear wiper, premium carpet mats, climate, base, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, basalt black with black leather, only 3,000 miles, £65000, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

RENAULT

KANGOO SL17, 09 2006, 1.5 dci 1000 35.000 miles, fsh lmg spd 52 sold with manufacturers warranty, £3995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

RENAULT MASTER LK3500, 10 2006, 2.5 dci 120 lwb sold with 6 manufacturers warranty hix top 6 speed ply lined air/con fsh 32.000 miles, £3440, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CLIO, 1.4 Expression + Hatchback 5d 1390cc, 52 2002, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio/cassette system, air conditioning, full body colour, service history, 1 owner, metallic silver, miles, £4795, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, EXTREME 2.0 16V, 2005, trim, cloth engine size: 2000 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, storm blue, 15830 miles, £7495, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, 1.8 16v Dynamique Hatchback 5d 1783cc (2001), x, alloy wheels central locking, sunroof, red, miles, £2999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814151 (TRADE)

MEGANE, OASIS 1.4, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1400 transmission: manual no. of doors: 1, blue, 21025 miles, £5995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SCENIC, EXPRESSION 1.6 AUTO, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: automatic no. of doors: 5, extreme blue, 38000 miles, £6995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

ROVER

200, 216 CABRIOLET, 1997, grey, 0 miles, £1295, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

25, Seil 16v 4dr, hy05 ukn, front fog lamps, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, red, 10800 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3 CONVERTIBLE, 26/06/2004, cd player abs leather hood cover alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser auto climate control electric windows, silver, 44588 miles, £3999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALHAMBRA, SX TDi 1.9 130PS 5dr MPV mar 2004 g04wlg, one previous keeper, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, front electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cassette, single cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, cruise control, electric door mirrors, cool box, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, steering column, seat height adjuster, seven seats, 2 x integrated child seats, indigo blue metallic, 46,500 miles, £11,795, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, 1.9 TDi PD Stylance 7 Seat [130 PS] 5dr, 01/09/2004, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows,

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Michelle Dowling, St Ives Westerham Press, Westerham House, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6EL

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CVs with covering letter, should be sent by post or e-mail, to:
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Spelmonden Farm, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1HE
e-mail: georgina@turnersfinefoods.co.uk

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Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Location: Sittingbourne, Kent
Hours: 30
Ref: 767-ECS487
Closing date: 1/10/08

Receptionist & Team Secretary

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Broadstairs, Kent
Hours: 30
Ref: 767-ECS495
Closing date: 1/10/08

Receptionist

Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Location: Canterbury, Kent
Hours: 30
Ref: 767-ECS485
Closing date: 2/10/08

Receptionist

Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Location: Broadstairs Community Offices
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECS486
Closing date: 2/10/08

Secretary

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Canterbury
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECS488
Closing date: 2/10/08

Receptionist

Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Location: Ashford
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECS489
Closing date: 16/10/08

NHS Emergency Planning Business Manager

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Eureka Park
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH152
Closing date: 3/10/08

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Sexual Health Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: The Gate Clinic, Kent and Canterbury Hospital
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH134
Closing date: 1/10/08

First Contact Nurse Practitioner

Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH148
Closing date: 1/10/08

Intermediate Care Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Folkestone
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC490
Closing date: 1/10/08

First Contact Nurse Practitioner

Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Hours: 37.5
Location: Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH149
Closing date: 1/10/08

Young Peoples Sexual Health Outreach Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Vicarage Lane Clinic
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH141
Closing date: 2/10/08

Young Peoples Sexual Health Outreach Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: College Road Clinic
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH142
Closing date: 2/10/08

Young Peoples Sexual Health Outreach Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Hours: 37.5
Location: Folkestone Health Centre
Ref: 767-ASH143
Closing date: 2/10/08

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Dietitian

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Buckland Hospital
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH147
Closing date: 1/10/08

Dietitian

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Kent and Canterbury Hospital
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH150
Closing date: 1/10/08

Dietitian

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: William Harvey Hospital + Buckland Hospital
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH146
Closing date: 1/10/08

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Pharmacy Technician - Practice Support

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Protea House
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECS454
Closing date: 2/10/08

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES

HEN Team Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital
Hours: 15
Ref: 767-ECS500
Closing date: 1/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH135
Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Canterbury Coastal
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH136
Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: College Road Clinic
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH137
Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Dover Health Centre
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH138
Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Folkestone Health Centre
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH139
Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: College Road Clinic
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH137
Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: Vicarage Lane Clinic
Hours: 25
Ref: 767-ASH140
Closing date: 2/10/08

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

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The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay. **Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk**



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Demelza Hospice Care for Children provides specialist care and support to children with life limiting conditions and their families. Posts are based at our hospice in Sittingbourne, Kent.

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- Experienced in working either in palliative care, or with children with complex medical or psychosocial or behavioral or educational needs?
- Able to contribute to an excellent team in a highly specialized environment?
- Able to value the benefits of quality time spent with the whole family providing holistic care?
- Able to commit to an 8 week rota with regular rotation onto night duty and some weekends? Full and part time hours available but all shifts must be undertaken.

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- Good annual leave entitlement and an excellent working environment.

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Working closely with medical staff, you will provide assessment and keyworker support to service users accessing the substitute prescribing service. The aim of the role is to assist chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their drug use and lifestyle.

Significant experience of working with people with drug related problems and a genuine commitment to this client group are essential. You should have a professional qualification in a relevant discipline such as nursing, counselling or social work.

There is scope to be involved in developing associated specialisms within the team.

For application forms contact: KCA (UK), 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351, Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: 17th October 2008

Interview date: TBC

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No. 292824



Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD

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Director of Learning for Mathematics

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Following the promotion of the previous post holder to a senior management position, we will be appointing his permanent replacement from 1st January 2009.

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and talented colleague to join our Team. Building upon the success of the Montgomery School during its final years, Spire has a very good first year. Year 7 numbers have doubled, GCSE results with English and Maths shot up from 18% to 32%, and there is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Maths results last year were the best of the core subjects, testimony to the quality of teaching and organisation of the curriculum. There is, however, real potential for improvement as well as the opportunity to teach at Sixth Form level through our link with the Marlowe Academy.

Potential candidates are encouraged to visit the school as part of the application process.

Please email our Personnel Manager, Marion Wigington, on m.wigington@spiresacademy.com for further details of how to apply.

Closing date: 10.00am on Friday 10th October
Interviews scheduled for the following week.

<http://www.spiresacademy.com>

Telesales Executive

We have an exciting opportunity for you to join our Multi Media business which includes the award winning Kent on Sunday and Kentish Saturday Observer newspapers.

If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. Due to location, you need to have your own transport and a proven track record in sales is preferable.

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KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent or email
tracy.morgan@kosmedia.co.uk



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Team Leader Vacancy

Team Leader for Mathematics
Salary Leadership Scale L13 – L14

Now in its fourth year, Kent's first Academy continues to challenge traditional approaches and to drive up standards – over twenty students have now gone on to university and last year's 5A*-C GCSE figure topped 50%. Real progress has been made with the 2011 National Challenge, but we believe that the creation of this Leadership Team post is crucial to our continued success.

The successful candidate will at least have:

- relevant middle leader experience;
- a background in Mathematics;
- energy, drive, commitment and ambition;
- and excellent communication skills.

Jenny Spooner, our Personnel Manager, is administering the appointment process. Please email her for details at Jennifer.spooner@marloweacademy.co.uk, as well as the chance to tour the Academy with our Principal, Ian Johnson.

The closing date for applications is Friday 10th October 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not and in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
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5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All advertisers and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
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b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary in the event of the advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
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26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Disputes on the rise as cash gets tighter

BOSSES and firms are getting frayed at the edges as the stress of the downturn takes its toll, with experts reporting that contract disputes are rising.

Businesses are taking more care over verifying terms of contracts with customers and suppliers, and business partners are increasingly locking horns, warns the Law Society.

President Paul Marsh said: "Our members tell us companies are exercising caution with contracts as they tighten their belts. Disputes tend to arise over what is a fair or unfair contract term."

"In the current climate many contracts will be under the microscope. Many solicitors, as well as being skilled litigators, are trained in alternative dispute resolution methods, such as mediation."

Lunch boosts hospice

AN all-female Kent business networking lunch – run by local accountancy firm Horwath Clark Whitehill, in conjunction with Ansacom, Clydesdale Bank and Brachers – raised £400 for the Heart of Kent Hospice, near Maidstone.

Professionally Pink is an event just for women from local businesses, and guests at a recent lunch heard from speaker Caroline Brinkman, corporate fundraiser from the hospice.

Event organiser Emily Rushton, of Horwath Clark Whitehill, said: "It was great to be able to make a donation towards their important work."

For details, phone 01622 767690, or email emily.rushton@horwath.co.uk.

Seminar opportunity

CALLING all Kent businesses wanting to reach Britain's largest single customer:

Yes, it's the Government, which spends £125 billion a year on goods and services.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Partnership for Profit Improvement and the West Kent Partnership, is presenting a public sector business opportunities seminar called A Route to Market.

It will be on October 22 at Kings Hill Conference and Training Centre, University of Greenwich, West Malling, from 9am until 1pm. Cost is £29.79 plus VAT. Book online at www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk, phone 01233 503838, or email rachel@kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

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Don't miss this month's Business Update from Tony Patey. Search 'patey'

Is the writing finally on the wall for late paying giants?



TAKING ON GOLIATH: Many small firms have been driven to distraction – and sometimes the wall – by bigger businesses, but the fightback could now be under way

BIG firms have always been notorious for being slow in paying bills to suppliers, denting crucial cash-flow and sometimes putting them out of business.

But now the Davids are beginning to stand up to the Goliaths.

Alliance Boots, the pharmaceuticals giant which was publicly criticised by the Forum of Private Business (FPB), has backtracked on plans to force one of its suppliers to accept an extended payment period of up to 105 days, along with an additional charge.

The FPB, which has many members in Kent, is concerned that some public sector organisations, such as the NHS, are also failing to pay on time, so is calling on government agencies to pay smaller firms promptly in order to set an example for companies such as Alliance Boots.

Justine and Martin Thompson, of training

■ BY TONY PATEY

firm MTa International of Yorkshire, refused to bow to the firm's demands, which included charging suppliers a 2.5 per cent 'settlement discount' for paying them within the extended period.

But the FPB believes most of the 22 companies on the 'shame list' – which includes Alliance Boots – will not take smaller firms' payment issues seriously until the Government takes a lead.

FPB's adviser on late payments, Stuart Blake, said: "Alliance Boots' attempt to vary payment provisions is likely to fall foul of section 14 of the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act."

It is also clear that the Government introduced this legislation in order to gain headlines, without any intention of being bound by it. One example of this was clearly shown in

the way that the Department for Food, the Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) intimidated its creditors who were involved in the clear-up operation after the foot-and-mouth disease crisis of 2002.

"A large number of companies went out of business as a result and many had to settle for 50 per cent of what they were owed, or less."

In 1998, after 15 years of campaigning, the FPB won a right for small firms to charge interest against late-payers via the late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act.

The FPB is investigating claims that small firms are not taking legal action against late-payers because they fear future business dealings could be jeopardised.

Research by BACS payment services found that late payment cost the UK's economy £18.6 million over the 12-month duration of the survey.

On average, according to BACS, small firms were owed £30,000 at any one time.

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Picture: DAVE STEWART



NO QUARTER: Wanderers took full advantage of Maidstone's troubles

Thanet earn first victory

RUGBY

Maidstone 3 Thanet Wanderers 33

He offloaded to Simon Harris, who scored by the posts to allow an easy conversion, giving Thanet a seven-point lead.

With Maidstone repeatedly squandering possession from their line-outs, Thanet were gifted the ball on a regular basis and their second try came from a blunder by the home side's stand-off.

Confused by the new Experimental

Law Variations, Frances kicked a pass back from a scrum inside the Maidstone 22 directly into touch. The resulting line-out saw Thanet prop James Green touch down from a rolling maul.

Frances partially atoned when he kicked a penalty early in the second half to cut the lead to 14-3, but Thanet weathered the storm and after 55 minutes a scrum deep in the Maidstone 22 saw the ball moved left to Brad Teall, who touched down.

Ten minutes later a sweeping move saw Cackett score in the left corner and with seven minutes to play he set up Tom Longdon to complete the scoring.

Greaves hits goal on Blues debut

JOHN Greaves scored on his debut to give Margate reserves their second win of the season in Kent League Division One.

Luke Coleman and Aaron Quain both played for the blues in a side of fringe players, but it was debutant Greaves who stole the show.

The only goal of the game came in the 85th minute. Former Ebbsfleet United midfielder Luke Coleman found Masade Eboneezer and Greaves was on hand to volley his cross into the net.

Ramsgate under-18s have been knocked out of the FA Youth Cup, losing 3-2 after holding a two-goal lead against Dover Athletic.

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Sidecar star Tim Reeves tells Tom Howard about his history-making year

Hotel run riot in AFC Rams thrashing

FAYRENESS Hotel produced the result of the day in the Thanet Sunday League as they beat AFC Ramsgate 15-0.

Hotel produced a stunning attacking display as Nick Baxter scored four and Aaron Smith three.

Birchington United and South Eastern played out a 1-1 draw. John Jolley's equaliser cancelled out David Wingate's strike. Albys United scored goals for fun in a 13-1 win against Thanet Fascias.

Adam Lavender scored four for Albys and Zack Thomas claimed a hat-trick.

Goals from Elliot Payne, Michael Scriven and Ryan Gardner for Active secured a 3-0 win over Doormans.

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Sad Rams crash to another 4-1 defeat

FOOTBALL

BY FRED ATKINS

Ramsgate 1 Tooting & Mitcham 4

RAMSGATE will be wishing they hadn't rearranged this Ryman Premier Division fixture with Tooting, after an emphatic home defeat.

The Rams' exit from the FA Cup at the hands of Folkestone - on the same day that Tooting were eliminated at Maidstone - allowed this game to be brought forward to Saturday.

Yet only 243 fans turned up and, given Ramsgate's worrying form, just two wins from 11 games this season, they might have been better waiting until the original fixture date in November.

Ramsgate started well and in the fourth minute Jake Eastwood and Lee Minshull linked to release Simon Pettit. Only a smart block from Dean Hamlin denied Jay May and Mo Takaloo a shot at goal.

But Tooting countered and only a desperate block by Nick Davis denied Michael Antonio, the game's star player, from hitting an opener.

The visitors didn't have to wait much longer to take the lead. In the seventh minute Paul Vines poked in the rebound after an initial effort from Stuart Myall.

Vines shot wide in the 19th minute, while at the other end Takaloo fired over after good work by Pettit.

Ten minutes before the interval it was 2-0, Antonio pouncing on a loose ball and going round Jack Delo before rolling in the second.

Jim Ward took drastic action at half-time, making a triple substitution.

May, Dane Sutton, and Lee Minshull were all taken off, with Ben Brown, Steffan Ball and Brett Kinch replacing them, yet the changes had little impact.

Only a timely intervention by Will Graham denied Antonio his second and Ramsgate struggled to make any headway.

Brown made a promising run in the 55th minute but he was let down by his final ball, which was too far in front of Ball, who then got in Davis' way as both players went for a Pettit throw.



DÉJÀ VU: Ramsgate have suffered two 4-1 defeats in a week and have fallen to 16th in the Ryman Premier League

With 20 minutes to go Tooting scored a killer third goal, as Joe Vines was left unmarked and his header gave Delo no chance.

Ramsgate stirred into life in the 79th minute when Pettit's long throw fell to Jake Eastwood, who pivoted and struck the ball past Tooting keeper Dave King but the Terrors had the final say.

In the 86th minute a clearance went straight

to Jason Pinnock, whose first-time shot flew past Delo into the corner.

The result lifts Tooting into the play-off places but leaves the Rams struggling in 16th place, just two spots above the relegation zone.

Striker Aaron Firth has rejoined Herne Bay on a short-term loan deal as he tries to regain match fitness, though he will be suspended for the Bay's visit to Deal on Saturday.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

Blues boss praises new young stars

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

MARGATE manager Barry Ashby feels his side have turned the corner after they picked up four points in the last two games against strong opposition.

The Blues were without a game on Saturday, but the previous weekend's 1-0 win in Middlesex against Ashford Town and the 0-0 draw with Tonbridge Angels last Tuesday night, has given Ashby cause for optimism.

He said: "The response since we got a 5-1 drubbing at Worthing has been fantastic, they have really stepped up to the plate.

"We have had injuries and knocks like everyone else, but they are putting themselves out there and giving me everything they've got.

"I am delighted because it definitely feels like we have turned a corner and are on the right track.

"If we defend properly, with the amount of quality we have in our side we are always going to create chances and cause people problems."

Two clean sheets in a row was always likely to please the former Gillingham defender, who prided himself in denying teams goals, but the fact they have done it with youngsters such as Dan Young and Curtis Robinson at the back has delighted Ashby.

"The criticism of the Margate team last year was we leaked too many goals," he said.

"In the league no one has really battered us, so if you get a clean sheet you give yourselves half a chance.

"We are improving all the time. We have young lads and we are trying to improve them as much as we can.

"The thing with myself, Paul Smith, Terry



YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE: Blues boss Barry Ashby is putting his faith in youngsters such as Aaron Quain (right)

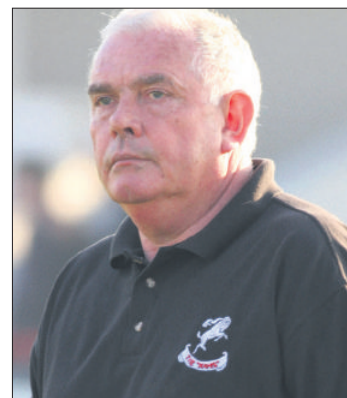
Yorath and everyone behind the scenes, is we work hard and hopefully we will get our reward. No one can look at us and say you are not honest and are not working your socks off, because we have done."

The new era was always going to take time as they aim to pack their side with young talent from the isle, and while it has been a difficult start, the signs are encouraging, according to Ashby.

He said: "Curtis Robinson hasn't played for us for a little bit but he's got his chance because he has been playing well in the



Picture: IOR/KAPCO



Picture: IOR/KAPCO

RAISED VOICES: Jim Ward may bring in new faces after Ramsgate's second 4-1 reverse in as many matches

Ward: 'I'll bring in new faces if I must'

FOOTBALL

RAMSGATE manager Jim Ward described their heavy defeat to Tooting & Mitcham on Saturday as their worst performance since gaining promotion to the Ryman Premier League.

Ward's side have had a week to forget, with 4-1 defeats to Dover Athletic on Tuesday and on Saturday at home to Tooting & Mitcham.

The Rams boss was disappointed after the defeat on Saturday and admitted he may have to bring in new faces if his side do not pick up their performances.

Ward said: "Everything that could go wrong went wrong. Good players do not turn into bad players overnight, so there is something not quite right.

"There was a lot of finger-pointing and raised voices afterwards and we will have to sit down together to discuss what is going wrong. If things do not pick up, I have no problem in bringing in more players.

"We've had two 4-1 defeats and the one against Dover we didn't deserve.

"But on Saturday against Tooting we did. In fact it was our worst performance in the Ryman Premier League. Fair play to Tooting, they played very well."

Despite a disappointing start to the season, which has seen the Rams win just two of their 11 games and are yet to secure a home win, Ward is positive his side will bounce back.

He said: "Everything is in our hands still. Last year we had a defeat towards the end of the season and won every game after that, making it to the play-offs. It is still early days at the moment."

Defender Joe Dowley has left the club to rejoin Sittingbourne, and striker Aaron Firth has been loaned to Herne Bay.

Ward added: "Joe was a good player for Sittingbourne last season but I have let him go. It was not a decision I took lightly.

"Firth has gone back on loan to Herne Bay. He is someone who needs games, which he will get there."

Ville warm up with a friendly win

HOCKEY

Cliftonville 3 University of Kent 2

CLIFTONVILLE Men's 1st XI warmed up for their Kent Open League A season opener with victory in their final pre-season game.

A University of Kent outfit were the opposition for Cliftonville's new-look side and they made it hard work for them in a 3-2 win.

The Thanet side started brightly with slick passing moves. It was from one of these that Cliftonville opened the scoring with just five minutes on the clock, with a goal from Adam Sidders.

University of Kent piled on the pressure after the goal, but Ville endured and counter-attacked with success.

Paul McNally was on hand to fire a low shot underneath the goalkeeper to give Ville a two-goal lead.

As the half drew to a close, Univer-

sity of Kent pulled a goal back to put the pressure back on Ville.

The second half saw both sides resort to a more aggressive type of play as they tried to put the match beyond doubt.

However, Ville's midfielders managed to slow the pace with a solid defensive play, which gave the Thanet side something to build on.

Sidders created a penalty corner opportunity, which McNally slotted into the net for his second of the game and what proved to be the match winner.

The University side threw caution to the wind in the final minutes, as they tried to haul themselves back into the match.

Ville's defence held firm but on one occasion were caught off guard and conceded a late goal to set up a nervous climax.

Cliftonville held on for victory and will hope to take their pre-season form into their league opener against Langley Park School.



Picture: IOR/KAPCO

WARMING UP: Cliftonville beat a UKC side in their last pre-season game

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